



OUR 120TH YEAR

Andover Townsman

Issue No. 31 24 pages

APRIL 3, 2008

75 CENTS

Salaries, benefits — the budget behemoths

Slowed growth pushing costs out of reach

By BRIAN MESSENGER
STAFF WRITER

From gasoline, to groceries, to annual property tax hikes, the cost of running a household is on the rise.

While some residents have had enough — witness the defeat of the 1 percent Community Preservation Act surcharge at the Andover ballot box — others seem resigned to the increases.

“Everything’s expensive,” said resident Lynn Schade, on her way into Market Basket in Shawshen

Plaza. “It’s hard. It isn’t just Andover. Andover’s part of a much bigger world and national picture. We need to pay for what we enjoy.”

This year’s average Andover property tax bill is about \$6,800. Without a Proposition 2½ override and substantially higher taxes, programs could be eliminated and public employees let go, say officials.

“It seems to be one of those unsolvable problems,” said Abbot Street resident Mary Joan Morris. “Every community is facing that.

It’s not just Andover. It’s not that the local communities have done anything wrong.”

Where does the money go? Andover’s budget is more than \$124 million. When factored together, the total cost of Andover employee salaries and health insurance is expected to cost \$83.6 million this fiscal year, an increase of \$14.4 million compared to the \$69.2 million spent in fiscal year 2004.

Among the leading budget

Please see **GROWTH**, Page 5

SALARIES BY THE NUMBERS

- 65 – Number of Andover employees who make more than \$100,000
- 11 – Employees who make more than the town manager
- 7 – Fire Department members who make more than the fire chief
- 32 – Number of \$90,000+ employees who make more than \$20,000 in overtime

For more on salaries and benefits including the top salaries, see pages 4 and 5

Inside teachers’ salaries

By BRIAN MESSENGER
STAFF WRITER

After 33 years teaching English at Andover High School, town resident Kathy Zalla said she knows how important it is for a public school system to employ quality educators.

Having interviewed prospective teachers during the hiring process, she also believes she knows how to do it.

“You have to attract them with pay packages,” said Zalla, who

will retire this spring. “You’ve got to have some kind of incentive, because the Lexingtons are scooping them up, and the Newtons.”

Andover teachers now have new pay packages under a three-year contract agreement signed March 27 by the Andover Education Association, which represents teachers in town.

In total, Andover teachers will receive a 8.5 percent cost-of-liv-

Please see **TEACHERS**, Page 4

Beer and wine stores reach state limit

By BRIAN MESSENGER
STAFF WRITER

No more stores in Andover can sell only beer and wine. Andover is tapped out.

The Board of Selectmen awarded the town’s last retail license restricted for wine and malt beverage sales on March 24. The quota for liquor licenses in a given community is set by the state according to the latest U.S. census figures.

On March 24, the owners of Feast Cafe & Provisions, which has yet to be built on South Main Street, were the recipients of the final retail license restricted to beer and wine sales only.

Andover real estate developer Bill Perkins, who hopes to build a 4,300-square-foot cafe and provisions store at the former home of Lund’s Automotive Service on

Please see **LIMIT**, Page 2

Andover’s annual adult spelling bee was held Friday night at the Wood Hill Middle School

Spelling for a cause



Laura Russell (left) of the Pike School Pride team is all smiles as the Pike team spells the word, ‘Stertorous’ correctly. The other teammates are: Tobi Levis, Judith Elefante and Cindy Beggeroer.



The High Plain Elementary School Word Wizards, from left, Judy Dlesk, Terry Stone, Lindsey Simard and Laurie Farrell listen carefully for the word during the Andover Fund for Education spelling bee, which raises money for Andover schools.



CARL RUSSO/Staff photos

Students from the South School parade around in the auditorium dressed as animals as they compete for the “Spirit Award.” The award is given to the team for having the best costumes and fans.

INDEX

- Arts & Entertainment 9
- Classified/Real Estate 18
- Crossword 10
- Editorial 11
- Education 7
- Letters 11
- Obituaries 15
- Police Log 6
- Sports 16
- Townspeople 13

Waist-high clothing piles and other hoarding issues

Selectmen study issue as vote on anti-blight approaches

By BRIAN MESSENGER
STAFF WRITER

Less than a month before Town Meeting will vote on a bylaw proposal calling for the enforcement of property upkeep standards, selectmen plan to learn more about compulsive hoarding from Andover’s health director.

The proponents of last year’s unsuccessful Property

Maintenance Code, Kirkland Drive residents fed up with a neighbor’s messy yard, have filed a private warrant article they are calling an “Anti-Blight” bylaw.

But before selectmen make a recommendation on the proposal — which calls for fines to be levied on residents whose properties lack maintenance or contain infestation, fire hazards and unsanitary conditions — selectmen will first hear from Town Health Director Tom Carbone on the

causes and treatments associated with compulsive hoarding.

“I think what’s driving a lot of this discussion right now is the Kirkland Drive issue,” said Carbone, who will address selectmen on April 7. “This is something that we’ve had on our radar for a long time.”

Approximately six properties in town meet criteria for compulsive hoarding, according to Carbone.

Please see **ANTI-BLIGHT**, Page 2



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LIMIT: State allows Andover 54 total liquor licenses

Continued from Page 1

he was fully aware there was only one such license left.

"That's why I made sure we got it many months before we opened," Perkins said.

The former Lund's building is expected to be demolished this week, with Feast Cafe & Provisions opening in the fall.

Like a smaller-scale Butcher Boy shop, Perkins said his business, which will be managed by his wife, will provide customers with up-scale food choices and the opportunity to pair their meals with a variety of beers and wines.

"You don't have to make an extra stop," said Perkins.

While Perkins has acquired the last license of that kind, four licenses remain available for package stores looking to sell all alcoholic beverages including hard liquor.

The town charges \$500 more annually for all-alcoholic-beverage liquor licenses compared to those for only beer and wine.

In all Andover is allowed 54 liquor licenses by the state — 33 for restaurants, inns and clubs selling all alcoholic beverages; seven for restaurants and clubs selling only wine and malt beverages; seven for retail package stores selling all alcoholic beverages; and seven for retail package stores selling only wine and malt beverages.

A total of 33 out of the 55 licenses have been granted in Andover, according to the town clerk's office. Now maxed out are the 14 wine and malt licenses allotted in town for restaurants, inns, clubs and package stores.

There are still 21 liquor licenses available in Andover, though that number will be reduced to 20 if the new Tokyo Steak House, also on Route 28, receives its pending all-alcoholic license, said Town Clerk Randy Hanson.

Hanson said there has been an increase in smaller-scale Andover

There are only three retail businesses in town licensed to sell beer, wine and hard liquor — Driscoll's Fine Wine & Spirits on Bartlet Street, Andover Liquors within Shawsheen Plaza, and Shawsheen Liquors on Poor Street.

businesses choosing to sell only beer and wine.

"It really depends on what they want to do," said Hanson. "That has been a trend. I think it's because the smaller restaurants and the smaller places deal with just those two. It's the type of business the person wants to have in town."

There are only three retail businesses in town licensed to sell beer, wine and hard liquor — Driscoll's Fine Wine & Spirits on Bartlet Street, Andover Liquors within Shawsheen Plaza, and Shawsheen Liquors on Poor Street.

Hanson said there has been "very slow growth" over the years in the number of businesses in town selling or serving alcohol, partly because only several areas in town offer retail opportunities.

A new interchange built off of Interstate 93 in the south of town could call for more retail development — and more package stores and restaurants selling or serving alcoholic beverages, Hanson said.

"That's where some of our licenses will go," said Hanson. "If they open up the interchange ... we'll see some of the other licenses going down, because that will be a whole new area that doesn't have services."

ANTI-BLIGHT: Hoarding is a public health issue

Continued from Page 1

"I've been into houses where we've had clothes," he said. "Piles and piles. This particular house [they were] probably waist high, minimum, and some areas probably higher than that."

Another home of a compulsive hoarder was the sight of a sewage problem, Carbone said, and a resident's collection of magazines and books needed to be removed to fix the problem.

"If there was a fire, could these folks get out and could we get a firefighter in there to make a rescue?" asked Carbone. "That's my biggest concern."

As part of the town health department's Public Health Week schedule of events, Andover residents are invited to learn more about compulsive hoarding at the Veterans Memorial Auditorium on April 8 at 6:30 p.m., when an outreach clinician from Elder Services of the Merrimack Valley will speak about the issue in more detail.

"We're looking for better options," said Carbone. "I'm hoping the public will have a better understanding of what compulsive hoarding is and what it isn't. If we've got people who

suffer from that and attend, they know there are some options out there and it can be helped."

A total of 1 to 2 percent of the general population are considered hoarders, according to Alicia Hussey, mental health program manager for Elder Services of the Merrimack Valley.

"I think it's more common than people realize," said Hussey. "It's really something that needs to be (treated) by a professional, because it's a problem that's really bigger than the stuff in the house or on the lawn."

Though compulsive hoarding is still diagnosed as a mental-health condition related to obsessive compulsive disorder, only 25 percent of hoarders have OCD, Hussey said.

"The program consists of basically a hoarding 101," said Hussey of the April 8 event. "We explain what compulsive hoarding is, how compulsive hoarding differs from clutter and how it's a health and safety risk."

Often compulsive hoarding can be triggered by trauma, loss or grief, Hussey said.

"It kind of depends on the person," said Hussey. "Usually it was a death of somebody that was close to them."

"It starts out because they're trying to hold onto the memory of the loved one that they

lost."

Though compulsive hoarding can lead to public health issues and fire hazards, Hussey said care must be given when dealing with a patient. Enforcing a massive clean-out may only make things worse for the long-term, she said.

"Unless you get at the root to the meanings they give their possessions, you're not going to be able to change their behaviors," said Hussey. "Everyone looks at their possessions differently."

"One person's trash is another's treasure, you've got to take that into account," said Selectman Brian Major. "What we really need to understand is what we have in controls. If there's a health hazard, we have the ability to take action."

Typically, Carbone said a compulsive hoarder's home will fill up with materials before other residents begin to notice objects being collected on the lawn.

"That's usually when we get called, because people start seeing junk in their yards," said Carbone. "Just because it looks like a mess and it is a mess doesn't make it a threat to the public."

Can Andover top \$40,000 for hunger?

Project Bread is asking local towns to increase their fundraising efforts as it prepares for this year's special 40th Walk for Hunger on Sunday, May 4. With the Walk less than two months away now is time to show support for the event and all it does for the community. In 2007, walkers from Andover raised \$40,000 of the total \$3.4 million to help hungry families throughout Massachusetts. With 450,000 people struggling to put food on the table, the need for emergency food is still at an all-time high.

"I participated in the Walk for Hunger for the first time this year and raised nearly \$1,200," said Jay

Raghaven, a Heart & Sole Walker from Andover, in a release. "Despite the fact that there are a million worthy causes, I like how Project Bread distributes the money from The Walk for Hunger to many local food pantries and soup kitchens. I love seeing the results." Heart & Sole Walkers are participants who raise \$500 or more for hungry people.

Project Bread's Walk for Hunger supports 400 emergency food programs across the state that serve 42.1 million meals a year. They include food pantries, meal programs, food banks, and food salvage programs.

In 2007, 43,000 walkers, 50,000

individual donors, and 2,000 volunteers participated in the 20-mile trek and raised \$3.4 million to fund 400 emergency programs in 126 communities across the state.

To honor this year's 40th Walk for Hunger, Project Bread is carrying out a history project to record and preserve the stories of the people who have played instrumental roles through the Walk's history. Share your memories and tales online at www.projectbread.org/history or at Project Bread's history tent on Sunday, May 4.

Camp sites for Reichold property

Representatives from the Andover Conservation Commission and the Andover Trails Committee have taken the first steps to opening up public camping on the recently acquired 22-acre Reichold property along Lowell Junction Road this winter.

The property, informally named "The Grove," abuts the Shawsheen River, capturing a panoramic view from most of the tent sites, according to Bob Decelle, Conservation Commission special projects manager. At night, no lights can be seen from the property and highway noise is in the far distance.

"The feeling was like being in the back country of Maine and yet we were only 10 minutes from home. How great is that?" he said.

The Conservation Commission is discussing the idea of public camping being available on the property through permits, possibly by the end of the summer. Another of the Reichold properties purchased by the town, located off Tewksbury Street, also has camping sites that could eventually become available to the public, including groups such as Scouts.

Seventh-grader a future sports columnist?

Caitlin Burke, a seventh-grader at Wood Hill Middle School, was chosen as a winner of the 2008 Will McDonough Writing Contest presented by The Sports Museum. The contest was open

to students in grades 4 to 12 and received more than 1,800 entries. A winner was selected from each grade.

Burke's essay, "My Refuge," will be displayed in The Sports

Museum's Will McDonough exhibit. Burke and other contest winners were expected to attend an award ceremony and Celtics game at the TD Banknorth Garden on April 2.

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In Brief

PAST & PRESENT



Courtesy photo

THEN: This 1940s photo shows the Aberdeen Building at left, at 348-362 North Main Street, built in 1922 by William Wood. Wood was president of American Woolen Company, employing 40,000 people in 60 mills over eight states. Its headquarters was in Shawsheen Village from 1923 to 1925.



TIM JEAN/Staff photo

NOW: William Wood's legacy lives on as the Aberdeen Building remains relatively unchanged more than 80 years after its construction.

Flags to be placed on veterans' graves

Local veterans, Boy and Girl Scout troops and citizen volunteers will meet on Sunday, April 6, at 11 a.m. at the Spring Grove Cemetery to place more than 3,000 flags on Andover veterans graves. Andover has 10 cemeteries, all of which contain points of historical interest. Come join your neighbors and friends; the entire process takes approximately 90 minutes. Rain date is Sunday, April 13, at 11 a.m. For further information please call 978-623-8218.

Town Meeting preview

On April 17 at 7 p.m., there will be a LWV forum to discuss the pros and cons of high-profile issues to be voted on at the upcoming Andover Town Meeting. The forum, to be held at Memorial Hall Library, is free and open to the public and will be broadcast live on cable.

Healthy Kids' Day

Healthy Kids' Day celebration will be held on April 8 from 1:30 to 4:30 p.m. at the Andover/North Andover YMCA, 165 Haverhill St., Andover, and from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the Methuen YMCA, 129 Haverhill St., Methuen. Children and adults alike will be participating in an activity-filled festival that celebrates the day's key call to action, "Put Play in Your Day." For more information, call 978-725-6681 or visit www.mvymca.org.

Growers: Sign up for farmers' market

The Andover Farmers' Market is now taking applications for vendors to join the second annual Andover Farmers' Market this summer from July 12 to Oct. 11. The farmers' market was held in front of the Andover Historical Society and Amos Blanchard House and Barn Museum, at 97 Main St. in Andover, on Saturdays during the summer of 2007. For more information and an application, log onto www.andoverhistorical.org/farmersmarket/ or call 978-475-2236.

QUOTE, UNQUOTE ...



"BACKGROUND ACTORS ARE TOLD NOT to distract the actors and to be quiet. That's what you do."

— *Extra Mike Pingree of Andover talking about his new acting career. Story in Arts & Entertainment, Page 9.*

"IN THE MORNING, I'LL BE A LITTLE BIT NERVOUS. BY THE END OF the day, I'll probably have a headache, and maybe (I'll be) a little happy in there somewhere."

— *Joshua Michel, 11, a fifth-grader at High Plain Elementary School, on his predicted emotions on the day of the state geography bee. He is one of 100 kids in the state final. Story in Education, Page 7.*

"IT'S OUR HOUSE AND IT'S EXCITING whether it's a football game, a basketball game. ... People come to our house to enjoy it. That is what I will miss."

— *Retiring Athletic Director Dave Nichols reflecting on his job. Story in Townspeople, Page 13.*



NEWS CALENDAR

THURSDAY, APRIL 3

Zoning Board of Appeals, public hearings and deliberations, Memorial Hall Library, the hall, 7 p.m.

SATURDAY, APRIL 5

Zoning Board of Appeals, deliberations, Memorial Hall Library, the hall, 9 a.m.

MONDAY, APRIL 7

Board of Health, Town Offices, 36 Bartlet St., first-floor conference room, 6 p.m.

Board of Selectmen, Town Offices, 36 Bartlet St., third-floor conference room, 7 p.m.

TUESDAY, APRIL 8

Preservation Commission, Town Offices, 36 Bartlet St., second-floor conference room, 6:30 p.m.

Planning Board, Town Offices, 36 Bartlet St., third-floor conference room, 7 p.m.

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 9

Design Review Board, Town Offices, 36 Bartlet St., third-floor

conference room, 6 p.m.
Finance Committee, Town Offices, 36 Bartlet St., second-floor conference room, 7 p.m.

THURSDAY, APRIL 10

Council on Aging, School Administration Building, third-floor conference room, 8 a.m.

Triad, Andover Senior Center, 36 Bartlet St., 9:30 a.m.

Board of Registrars voter registration, town clerk's office, 5 to 8 p.m.

MONDAY, APRIL 14

Housing Partnership Committee, Town Offices, 36 Bartlet St., second-floor conference room, 7 p.m.

Board of Selectmen, Town Offices, 36 Bartlet St., third-floor conference room, 7 p.m.

TUESDAY, APRIL 15

Board of Assessors, Town Offices, 36 Bartlet St., assessors conference room, 9 a.m.

Conservation Commission, Town Offices, 36 Bartlet St., third-floor conference room, 7:45 p.m.

Circle of Friends holds spiritual healing lecture

The Andover Circle of Friends Community will host a public lecture, "Healing on the Spiritual Path: A simple, natural way for help and healing for everyone" on Monday, April 7 from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. on the third floor of Memorial Hall Library. Andover residents Greg and Sue Welch

are delighted to welcome guest lecturer Susanne Rois, who is visiting from Austria to hold a series of lectures across New England about the ongoing healing work of the late Bruno Groening and the Circle of Friends, a worldwide non-profit organization. Admission is free and open

to the public. Donations are gratefully accepted. For more information on event contact: Sue Welch at 978-975-4400 or sue.welch2@verizon.net. For more information about Bruno Groening and the Circle of Friends visit www.bruno-groening.org/english.

Attending the Final Four for college credit

Derek Barenboim, a resident of Andover, is one of 12 Lynn University sports management students who are combining learning and watching basketball games at the NCAA Men's Final Four. The basketball games are

to be played in San Antonio, Texas on April 5 and 7.

The trip is the culmination of a semester-long, three-credit course, entitled, "The Final Four Experience." Sports management students from the south Florida

liberal arts university will spend the week zigzagging their way through the San Antonio sports landscape, with the help of their professors, Ted Curtis and Chad Barr, according to a release from the school.

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TOWN OF ANDOVER NOTICE TO RESIDENTS

LEAF COMPOSTING

The Town of Andover leaf compost site at Bald Hill on High Plain Road will be open for Andover residents ONLY.

🌿

April 7, 2008—May 17, 2008

Monday — Saturday, 8:00 am — 4:00 pm

Open Sundays, 10:00 am — 4:00 pm

WALKING IN IS AVAILABLE ALL YEAR

Residents may drive in to drop off leaves and grass clippings ONLY the dates listed above. Residents MUST remove their leaves & grass clippings from whatever container is used to transport. All contaminated loads will be rejected. The area is available for walk-ins at all times. Please walk your leaves & grass clippings in past the gate.

There are substantial fines for **ILLEGAL dumping**.

Directions to Bald Hill: Take Lowell St. (Route 133) to Greenwood Rd. (the traffic light just east of the IRS). Take Greenwood Rd. (0.8 miles) north to High Plain Rd., Take High Plain Rd. (1.0 miles) west to Bald Hill.

CURBSIDE LEAF COLLECTION

The Town of Andover will be conducting Curbside Leaf collection for six (6) weeks each in the Fall and Spring.

🌿

April 22, 2008 – May 31, 2008

Leaf collection WILL BE delayed a day the week of April 21st due to the Patriot's Day Holiday

WHAT TO DO:

**No rocks, stones, branches or stumps in leaf bags

Place leaves curbside by 7:00 a.m. on your regular trash collection day. (Allied Waste will send a separate truck to pick up leaves only).

HOW TO PREPARE LEAVES FOR PICKUP:

- Place leaves in open trash barrels (leaves ONLY)
- Place leaves in brown paper leaf compost bags, or
- NO PLASTIC BAGS OF ANY COLOR ACCEPTED


BUNDLED BRANCHES

Branches are allowed in the weekly trash pickup, (subject to limitation of 3-4 bundles per week) and must be bundled with tape or rope as follows:

- 1" to 6" in diameter
- 50# or less each
- up to 4' in length
- No foliage

D

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TEACHERS: Pay raises for step, track, longevity, cost of living

Continued from Page 1

ing adjustment was awarded over the three years. All Andover teachers will receive 1.5 percent cost-of-living adjustments during this 2007-08 school year.

In addition, all school and town employees beginning one of their first 14 years in town receive a so-called step increase. Next fiscal year, approximately 57 percent of Andover's teaching staff will move up a step, and receive between 2.3 and 6.8 percent more.

Also in fiscal year 2009, approximately 16 percent of Andover's teaching staff will receive a salary-enhancing track increase, pay raises given to teachers furthering their education toward a higher-level degree.

School and town employees with 16 or more years of experience receive annual longevity salary enhancements. Teachers can receive between 1 and 3 percent extra.

No changes to teachers' step and track benefit schedules were collectively bargained during the most recent round of negotiations, which began in January 2007 and concluded after 22 meetings between the Andover Education Association and School Committee.

The three-year pact retroactively covers from Sept. 1, 2007 up to Aug. 31, 2010.

"Virtually every (teacher) contract in the country has step and track provisions, or provisions tied to years of service," said School Committee member Deb Silberstein, adding that the contract is "very well within statewide settlements."

"Average settlements statewide have been nine and 10 percent," said Silberstein.

Average teacher

The average Andover teacher has taught in town for nine years.

Previously-bargained step increases call for a teacher with the town-average of nine

years experience to receive a step pay increase of between 3 to 6.6 percent, depending on their level of education.

For a teacher with the average nine years of work experience, advancement of their masters degree will activate an additional track increase ranging from between a 2.3 to 6.7 percent bump in salary.

A total of 445 out of 551 teachers in town possess masters degrees (for a look at the charts outlining step and track increases for teachers log onto andovertownsmen.com).

Step and track

According to Selectman Brian Major, the average teacher step increase translates into a 4.1 percent salary increase.

The average teacher track increase, translates into a 5.5 percent raise, he said. "You hear the COLA; you don't hear the rest," said Major, referring to step, track and longevity benefits. "That's not giving the full value of the situation. It's important that we announce the full benefit package."

Major said the new teacher contract comes at a time when some private sector companies aren't giving pay raises or are cutting back on employee costs altogether.

"Private and public (sector) do not have to be equal," said Major. "But it needs to be tied to what you can afford."

In recent weeks Major has criticized the new teacher contract for not being affordable in future years.

According to former School Committee member David Samuels, during the third year of the deal, a \$755,000 deficit will be created.

"Education does cost," said Andover Education Association President Tom Meyers, a social studies teacher at the high school. "The engine that drives the wheel of education is a professional teaching staff."

The new teacher contract contributes only a fraction of the fiscal difficulties facing Andover in

For a teacher with the average nine years of work experience, advancement of their masters degree will activate an additional track increase ranging between a 2.3 and 6.7 percent bump in salary.

future years, according to Finance Committee Chairwoman Joanne Marden.

"We know that looking ahead to 2010 that our deficit grows a lot," said Marden. "There's a piece of that: what's needed for the teachers' contract. It's not the whole problem."

Meyers said track increases, which average \$1,500, add incentive for teachers to further their educations. Under state law, teachers must continuously work toward recertification, he said.

"The steps and the tracks are existent in other contracts," said Meyers. "It encourages professional development for teachers."

As for step increases, Meyers referred to them as a cost-saving device for the School Department and noted how public safety employees have only five step increases in their contracts before reaching their maximum base salary level.

"Obviously that's an advantage to the public safety system," said Meyers.

"It's really a deferred payment," said Meyers of the nature of step increases. "You're paying them less than perhaps what the job is worth. You're slowing down the process by having more steps. It's a savings to the town."

The School Department has 972 employees. Among those are 413 non-special-education classroom teachers, 134 special-education teachers and 220

SALARIES

Category	FY2004*	FY2005*	FY2006*	FY2007*	FY2008**	Increase over five years	Percent increase since FY04
School	\$37,097,316	\$38,502,092	\$40,811,936	\$42,989,460	\$44,763,000	\$7,665,684	20.7
Total	\$60,954,280	\$61,956,966	\$65,067,694	\$68,298,694	\$70,864,000	\$9,909,720	16.3

HEALTH INSURANCE

Health insurance	FY2004*	FY2005*	FY2006*	FY2007*	FY2008**	Increase over five years	Percent increase since FY04
Total	\$1,098,438	\$1,267,033	\$1,575,902	\$2,041,987	\$2,307,609	\$1,209,171	110.1
Total	\$8,223,438	\$9,730,142	\$11,172,902	\$11,997,987	\$12,754,609	\$4,531,171	55.1

TOWN & SCHOOL EMPLOYEES (FULL TIME EQUIVALENCY)

Town	School	Total	FY2004*	FY2005*	FY2006*	FY2007*	FY2008**	Increase over five years	Percent increase since FY04										
										354.7	697.7	1,052.4	354.7	737.4	1,092.1	355.4	757.6	1,113	354.9
86.6	88.1	86.6	88.1	86.6	88.1	86.6	88.1	86.6	88.1	86.6	88.1	86.6	88.1	86.6	88.1	86.6	88.1	86.6	88.1

*FY2004-2007 are actual expenditures

**FY2008 are budgeted numbers

***Retired teachers' health insurance expenses are not controlled by the town. They are budgeted based off of cherry sheet assessments before the state bills the town for the expense. Additionally, the above health insurance number includes both active town and school employees as well as retired town employees.

“Virtually every (teacher) contract in the country has step and track provisions, or provisions tied to years of service.”

School Committee member Deb Silberstein

HEALTH INSURANCE COST YEAR-TO-YEAR INCREASES

Town Controlled:	State controlled, billed to town:
Active town and school employees and retired town employees	Retired teachers in Group Insurance Commission
Fiscal 2004-05* \$1,338,109	Fiscal 2004-05* \$168,595
Fiscal 2005-06* \$1,133,891	Fiscal 2005-06* \$308,869
Fiscal 2006-07* \$359,000	Fiscal 2006-07* \$466,085
Fiscal 2007-08** \$491,000	Fiscal 2007-08** \$265,622

*FY2004-2007 are actual expenditures

**FY2008 are budgeted numbers

AVERAGE TEACHER

The average teacher in Andover has worked for nine years and has a master's degree. Here is the salary history for an Andover teacher who matched that profile at the beginning of this school year. The teacher was hired to begin the 1998-99 school year and will have 10 years of service at the end of this year. The teacher went from having a master's degree to earning a master's+30 designation in fiscal year '05, which means the teacher earned 30 credits to advance their degree.

YEAR	LEVEL	TAKE-HOME PAY
FY2008	Master's+30	\$75,902
FY2007	Master's+30	\$73,833
FY2006	Master's+30	\$71,283
FY2005	Master's+30	\$69,023
FY2004	Master's	\$65,958
FY2003	Master's	\$63,604
FY2002	Master's	\$57,025
FY2001	Master's	\$55,310
FY2000	Master's	\$46,154
FY1999	Master's	\$42,781

Source: School Department

roughly 2000, Zalla said that if Andover is going to compare its students' test scores with other leading school districts in the state, it should also compare teacher salary figures. "If you're going to compare it for one thing, you need to compare it to the other," she said. "Because we work really hard."

teaching assistants. John Berube, a resident and librarian at Andover High School, agreed with Zalla that Andover is competing for teachers with the leading school districts in the state.

"People are going to gravitate toward the districts that pay more," said Berube. "And if we want to remain competitive with those districts, I think we ought to pay salaries that are similar. We have a very good school system in Andover."

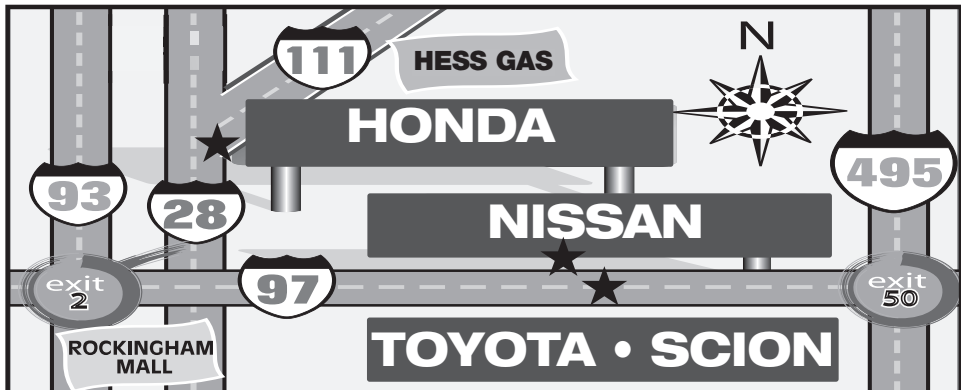
With 10 years of work experience, eight of them in Andover, Berube has two Masters degrees, in history and library science. Having earned the second-highest possible track increase, Berube said he made roughly \$65,000 last year.

Like Berube, Zalla, who has worked at the high school since 1975, also has earned the second-highest possible track increase, known as Masters+75, which is below only the doctorate level.

Zalla said she broke the \$75,000 salary plateau in 2004. The recipient of additional longevity payments since

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Colin Callahan President

HEALTH: Town trying to control costs

Continued from Page 5

fluctuated year-to-year from \$168,595 more between fiscal years 2004 and '05 to \$466,085 more between fiscal 2006 and '07.

Stapczynski said one reason for Andover's steep health insurance costs is its proximity to Boston-area hospitals.

"They come with a price," said Stapczynski. "Just by being close to Boston, our health insurance rates are higher."

Another reason is that Andover's employee experience, which dictates health plan rates, "has been lousy," he said.

Stapczynski said the town has been informed by its health care provider, Blue Cross Blue Shield, that a number of large claims have been filed by Andover employees, which in turn increase costs system-wide, he said.

"We've had some big cases," said Stapczynski. "That's not good for the group."

The hiring of additional employees over the last several years and the migration by employee spouses into Andover's health plan are two other reasons for increases in health insurance costs, Stapczynski said.

"People are coming into our plan," said Stapczynski. "We are seeing an increase."

According to information provided by the town before a meeting with local legislators on March 12, Andover officials were seeking from its state delegation new revenue sources and tools to help control costs associated with health insurance.

Talking with the Legislature

The town suggested the legislature allow municipalities to join the state's Group Insurance Commission through a local option acceptance alternative, rather than through negotiations with employee unions.

Such a change would mean the Board of Selectmen would be given the authority to join the state plan.

Additional flexibility with health plan management was also a topic brought up with Andover's legislators.

At the state level, Stapczynski said the Office of the Secretary of Administration and Finance can change health-plan design and co-payment levels without having received any input from employee unions.

"They do it without collective bargaining," said Stapczynski. "We have to bargain all of our changes. And that's why we were asking the legislature to cut us a little slack on that."

Major did not see the advantage with joining the state's Group Insurance Commission.

"It doesn't really make sense for a community like Andover to join," said Major. "We've already instituted many of the changes and we're enjoying the cost savings."

The town also suggested the legislature pass a measure that would allow municipalities to require its retirees enroll in federally-subsidized Medicare health plans.

"Certainly, the situation we have now is difficult, because we have to get all of the unions to agree to any changes," said Finance Committee Chairwoman Joanne Marden. "But they have agreed. In the last round of negotiations there were changes in the deductible, and in the recent teacher contract there were changes."

Often times, Major said health-plan changes can reduce costs for both governments and employees.

"There's always more work that can be done," said the School Committee's Silberstein of the latest health-plan changes. "I think this was one step forward. I'd like to continue making additional steps forward."

Launch party



KATIE McMAHON/Staff photo

Zach Kleinberg of Andover models clothing from Kaps Menswear as Terry Stevens of Indra Salon smiles for the camera in clothing from Native Sun at the launch party for The Andovers magazine at Ethan Allen on Monday night. The first edition of the new magazine comes out April 30.

Dance Prism presents an original ballet inspired by Robert McCloskey's classic MAKE WAY FOR DUCKLINGS. Littleton MA, Sudbury MA, Andover MA, Worcester MA.

POLICE LOG
ARRESTS
Tuesday, March 25 - At 3:21 p.m., Augustus DeBella, 50, of 55 Hill Road, Belmont, was arrested and charged on a warrant for being present where heroine is kept.
Thursdays, March 27 - At 12:57 p.m., a 15-year-old female from Lawrence was arrested and charged with assault and battery on a police officer, assault and battery with a dangerous weapon, resisting arrest and disturbing a school.
INCIDENTS
Tuesday, March 25 - At 3:26 p.m., harassment was reported on Central Street.
At 9:54 p.m., an officer was injured on North Main Street.
At 10:43 a.m., threats were reported on North Main Street.

PROFESSIONAL CONNECTION

Grid of professional advertisements including: DENTISTS (Apara Sharma, DMD), PSYCHOTHERAPY (Marital Counseling), LAWYERS (David F. Bernardin, Marybeth McInnis), REAL ESTATE (InterRate Mortgage Corporation), SKIN CARE (JMS Skin Care Studio), PRIVATE TUTORING (Smart Start Tutoring, Inc.), DIVORCE MEDIATION (Ronald E. Zagaja), ENGINEERS/SURVEYORS (Andover Consultants Inc.), ACCOUNTANTS (Toscano & Ardito, P.C.), CHIROPRACTORS (Andover Spine Center), OPTICAL (Andover Eye Care), FINANCE/INSURANCE (Edward Jones), EDUCATION (USA College Bound), CONSULTING SERVICES (Carina & Co.), INSURANCE (SameL Insurance Agency Inc.).

Education

WATCH OUT, ALEX TREBEK

2 from Andover finalists in state geography bee

By BETHANY BRAY
STAFF WRITER

If you took a rafting trip through the Grand Canyon, what river would you be on? Which country lies father north, Chad or Botswana? Which Russian term is used for the region of coniferous forest located south of the tundra? Which country has more islands, the Comoros or the Philippines? Stumped yet?

Andover students Colie Egertson and Joshua Michel, who will be competing in the state geography bee on April 4, could easily tell you that the answers are the Colorado River, Chad, taiga and the Philippines.

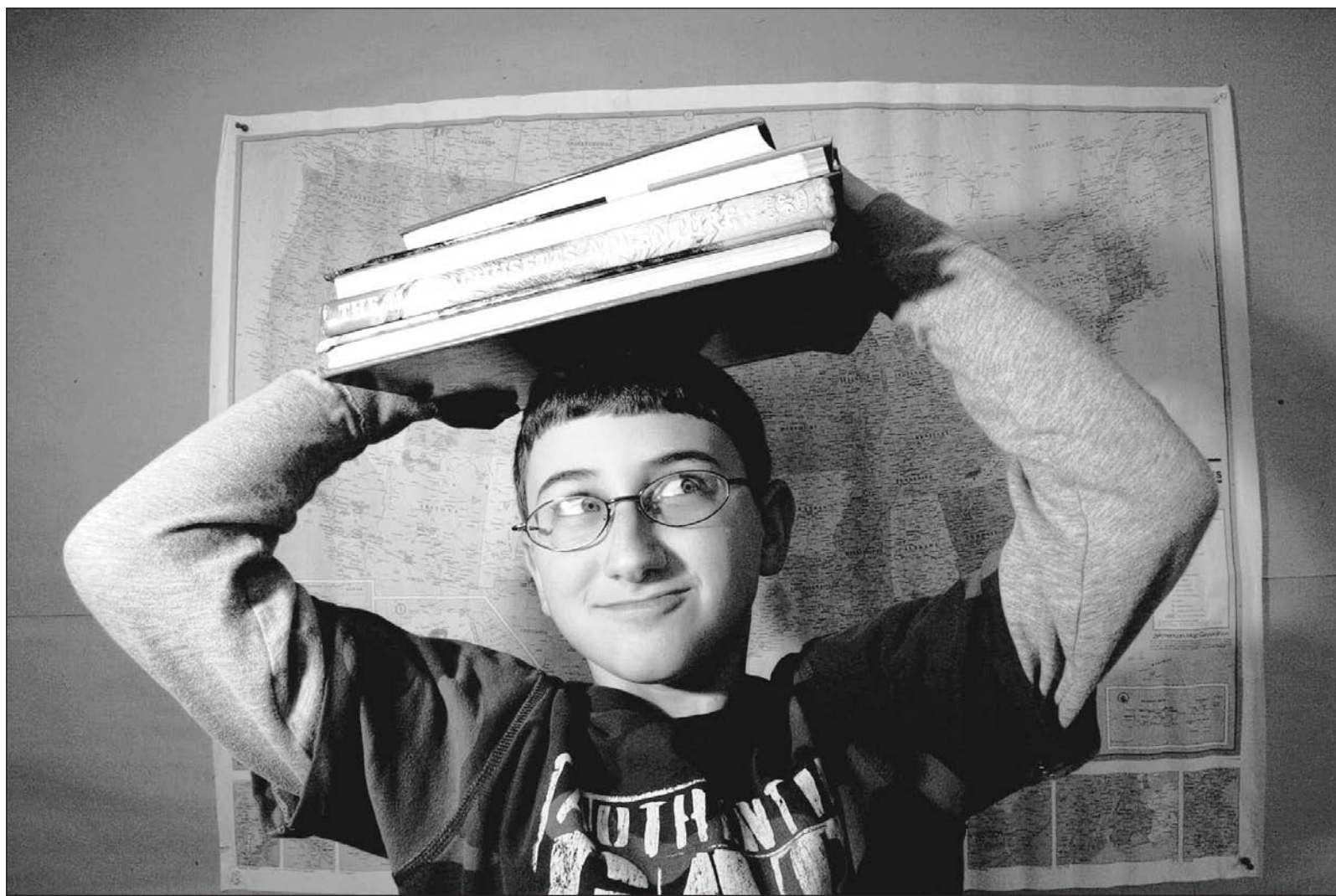
Joshua, a fifth-grader at High Plain Elementary, and Colie, an eighth-grader at Doherty Middle School, will be two of 100 students in fourth through eighth grades competing in the Massachusetts state final of the National Geographic Bee, held at Clark University in Worcester on Friday. They both won their schoolwide geography bees over the winter and placed in the top 100 scores in the state on a 70-question qualifying test to earn their spots.

"In the morning, I'll be a little bit nervous. By the end of the day, I'll probably have a headache, and maybe a little happy in there somewhere," said Joshua, 11, of his predicted emotions on the day of the state bee. "I'm proud, surprised and a bit nervous, going against mainly eighth-graders that are older than me."

Colie said Friday will be "just like another day" and that he's not really that nervous about the state bee, having been before. Besides this year, he won his schoolwide geography bee and advanced to the state bee in sixth grade at Doherty and in fifth grade at Bancroft Elementary School.

Colie, 13, says he has a natural interest in geography, and easily remembers information he sees on maps.

"On Friday, I'll be pretty calm, because I know most of the people there are really, really, really smart and good, so I don't stand much of a chance (of taking first place). So I'm not worried," he said. "In the past couple of years, I did OK in the preliminary rounds,



ANGIE BEAULIEU/Staff photo

High Plain Elementary School fifth-grader Joshua Michel, 11, won the school's geography bee and will head to the state bee on April 4.

MEET YOUR ANDOVER CONTESTANTS

■ Joshua Michel, 11, fifth-grader at High Plain Elementary

Joshua is the oldest child of Lyuba and Toli Michel and has a younger sister, Gabriella, 4. His favorite subjects are math and science. "Social studies (geography) is probably like my fifth favorite thing at school," he said.

Joshua came in first place at the High Plain geography bee, held in the cafeteria in front of the entire fifth-grade class of 112 students. He wasn't really nervous that day, he said.

To study for the geography bee, he reads a few study books his parents found for him or asks his parents to quiz him. He's also learned a lot of geography facts from watching history and military channels on television with his dad, he said.

"I learn most of my stuff from TV ... and books," he said.

Besides geography, Joshua plays the recorder, likes reading, playing soccer and "playing by myself, always based on my imagination."

■ Colie Egertson, 13, eighth-grader at Doherty Middle School

Colie is the oldest child of Bini and Eric Egertson and has a younger sister, Suzanne, 10. His favorite subject is math, with social studies or history coming in second.

This is the third year Colie has won the schoolwide geography bee and advanced to the state finals. He'll make the trip on Friday with his dad, he said.

He's glad to be able to miss a day of school to go to the state bee, he said, but will have to make up the work he misses during the weekend.

Colie said he looks over his family's issue of National Geographic magazine when it comes each month, and sometimes will flip through an atlas.

"I don't really study all that much. I look at maps in magazines or newspapers and I'll just remember what I see without having to go over it much," he said.

Colie plays the guitar as well as ice hockey and baseball. He enjoys watching New England's professional sports teams on TV and playing sports outside with the neighbors, he said.

but didn't go on to the finals. When they were up there, they knew every answer really fast; they didn't even have to think about it."

At the state bee, students will be quizzed in several rounds, each on a different topic, including United States, world, physical, economical and cultural geography.

Questions can be on topics covered in a public school classroom or on something totally unexpected, said Joyce Rawlinson, Joshua's

classroom teacher at High Plain. One question on the qualifying test asked contestants to name the U.S. state with the highest unemployment rate.

But Rawlinson has confidence in her student.

"He's answered unbelievable questions that I couldn't pronounce the names of," she chuckled. "I've done this for 15 years, for High Plain and West (elementary schools), and I've never gotten a

'congratulations' letter before. He likes any kind of enrichment. He likes the challenge."

The Massachusetts state bee will have students from 87 different cities and towns competing. The state bee winner receives a \$100 cash prize, a National Geographic globe and all-expenses-paid trip to Washington, D.C., for the National Geographic Bee, which is televised and hosted by Alex Trebek, famed host of "Jeopardy!"

The winner of the national bee, planned this year for May 20 and 21, is awarded a \$25,000 college scholarship and a lifetime membership to the National Geographic Society. To prevent cheating, all 50 states hold their state geography bees on the same day and same time.

Questions in the first paragraph of this story were taken from a sample geography bee test on nationalgeographic.com.

ON CAMPUS

On May 20, 2007, Sara Marissa

LeClerc received her Juris Doctor from the University of Virginia School of Law. A 1999 graduate of Phillips Academy, she earned her bachelor's degree in political science from Emory University in 2003. LeClerc is employed by Seyfarth Shaw LLP and makes her home in Atlanta. She is the daughter of Bob and Judy LeClerc.



Sara Marissa LeClerc

Caitlin Delaney, Emily Evans and Christopher Muscatello were named to the Connecticut College dean's high hon-

ors list for the fall 2007 semester. To receive this honor, students must achieve a grade point average of 3.7 to 4.0.

The following students were named to the Bentley College dean's list for the fall 2007 semester - Joseph Cartolano, a freshman majoring in information design and corporate communications; Zachary Gostanian, a junior majoring in marketing; Matthew Jacobs, a junior majoring in economics and finance; Jeffrey Salvesen, a freshman majoring in management, and Michael Stroock, a junior majoring in corporate finance and accounting. To be named to the dean's list, a full-time student must have a grade point average of 3.3 or higher with no course grade below 2.0 during the term.

Jeanne M. Lothrop, a senior and

dean's list student, participated in the Career Discovery internship program at Bates College. In December 2007, Lothrop interned with Dr. Roger Spingarn, a pediatrician in private practice offering primary care from infancy to college age. She spent the fall 2006 semester in Mombasa, Kenya, through the School for International Training. The daughter of Robert and Elizabeth Lothrop, she is a 2004 graduate of Andover High School.

Colleen Ann Cummings, a student in the College of Arts and Science and daughter of Lisa Cummings, and Skylar Jameson Washburn, a student in the Peabody School of Education and Development and daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Peter D. Washburn, were named to the Vanderbilt University dean's list for the fall 2007 semes-

ter. To receive this honor, students must achieve grades equivalent to a 3.5 or higher on a 4.0 scale for the semester.

The following students were named to the Colby College dean's list for the fall 2007 semester - junior Katherine L. Nelson, daughter of David Nelson and Katherine O'Neil, physics and mathematical science major; sophomore Seth A. Johnson, son of Philip and Ellen Johnson, biology major with a concentration in cell and molecular biology/chemistry; and senior Michelle A. Easton, daughter of Christopher and Karen Easton, sociology and human development major. Students whose grade point average is in the top 30 percent are named to the dean's list.

Please see ON CAMPUS, Page 8

College scholarships offered

The Andover chapter of Dollars for Scholars announces that scholarship applications for the 2007-08 academic year are now available. Any Andover resident - including graduating seniors, returning students or adults working toward an undergraduate degree - who has been accepted as a full-time student in a post-secondary program of education is eligible to apply.

Applications are available online at andoverma.gov/residents/adfs.php; at the guidance departments at Andover High School, Phillips Academy and Greater Lawrence Technical School; Andover Town Offices

and Memorial Hall Library.

Submission of this application permits candidates to be considered for any of up to 20 awards, ranging in value from \$250 to \$1,500, from more than 10 individual scholarship funds. Completed applications must be postmarked no later than April 21.

Approximately 500 institutions have agreed not to adjust the students' financial aid packages to reflect Dollars for Scholars grants. Some will match the Dollars for Scholars awards.

For more information on the Andover Dollars for Scholars program, call Joan Duff at 978-685-3212.

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ON CAMPUS

Continued from Page 7

The following students were named to the Middlesex Community College dean's list — **Elyse Brouillard, Lisa Crampton, Seo Young Han, Jun Lu, Lisa Mezher, Tinaa Milanova, Sasha Roberge, Matthew Schneider, Leila Smith and Christine Wright.** All students carrying 12 credit hours or more, earn a 3.2 grade point average, without D, F, I or IP grades, are recognized by inclusion on the dean's list.

Christine M. Pierro has accepted membership in Golden Key International Honour Society at Boston College. Golden Key International Honour Society is the premiere college/university honor society in the world. Member-

ship in to the society is by invitation only, to students in all fields of study.

Kara McCall was named to the Massachusetts College of Liberal Arts dean's list for the fall 2007 semester. To be eligible for the dean's list, matriculated students must be enrolled in six or more credit courses, attain a grade point average of 3.25 or better and have no incomplete grades.

Caitlin Delaney, a junior, was selected Housefellow of Connecticut College's Wright Dormitory for the 2008-09 academic year. She was chosen from a highly competitive pool of applicants. Housefellows play a vital role in

the operations of Connecticut College's residential system. Each dormitory is headed by one senior who is responsible for the health and well-being of the residents. Delaney, a 2005 graduate of Andover High School, is the daughter of James and Lynn Delaney.

Rebecca Elizabeth Agostino was named to the Duke University dean's list for the fall 2007 semester. To receive this honor, students must rank in the top third of their college.

Amy Boxell, an Earlham College sophomore and daughter of Elizabeth Kriebel and Philip Boxell of Andover, has been selected as a

Bonner Scholar for the spring semester. The Bonner Scholars Program is a four-year developmental leadership program that is rooted in community service. Supported by the Bonner Foundation in Princeton, N.J., the Bonner Scholarship provides tuition and summer support for 15 Earlham students per class year who demonstrate a commitment to community service.

The following students have been named to the dean's list for the fall 2007 semester at Southern New Hampshire University in Manchester, N.H.: **Jeffrey Bouchard**, general studies in education; **Stephen Crompton**, business administration; **Jayne Day**, business ad-

ministration; **Thomas Doucette**, sport management; **Kelsey Labov**, convention and event management. To be eligible for this honor, a student must compile an academic grade point average of 3.0-3.49.

The following student has been named to the president's list for the fall 2007 semester at Southern New Hampshire University in Manchester, N.H.: **Amy Rolfs**, business studies. To be eligible for this honor, a student must compile an academic grade point average of 3.5-4.0.

Erin S. Saunders has been named to the dean's list for the fall 2007 semester at New York Universi-

ty's Stern School of Business. Dean's list recognition requires a grade point average of at least 3.6. Saunders is an accounting major and a member of the Class of 2009. She is a 2005 graduate of Andover High School and is the daughter of Jeffrey and Rhonda Saunders of Andover.

Michael Berger, son of Robert and Judith Berger of Andover, graduated summa cum laude with a bachelor of science degree from Ithaca College's School of Health Sciences and Human Performance. The degree was awarded in December 2007.

ANDOVER RESIDENTS HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS WASTE (HHW) COLLECTION DAY

May 10, 2008

9:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

West Elementary School ~ Beacon Street

**Early waiting lines, before 9:00 am, will not be allowed.
(proof of residency required)**

NOTE TO RESIDENTS ~ PRE-SORT

Be sure to check the lists below and sort through your items at home. Long waiting lines are a result of residents bringing items that are not accepted to the collection that need to be sorted while in line prior to having the HHW items removed. Any cars containing any of the items on the **DO NOT BRING** list, will be subject to being directed out of the waiting line to sort their own car before they may proceed in line.

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Oil Based Paint **ONLY**
Varnishes
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Mercury Items
(Please be sure mercury is in a container)
Rechargeable Batteries
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Waste Oil
Pool Chemicals
Herbicides/Pesticides
Fertilizers

DO NOT BRING

Explosives
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Latex Paints
Alkaline Batteries
Appliances

Computers
TV's
Stereos

Limited to household quantities: maximum 25 gallons and 25 lbs. per vehicle

SCHOOL LUNCH MENUS

Here's what's for lunch in the Andover public schools next week, April 7 to 11:

ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS

Monday: Breakfast sandwich on croissant, scrambled eggs, French toast sticks, sausage links, apple sauce and juice.

Tuesday: Fenway frank, chicken nuggets, jumbo pretzel and yogurt, macaroni salad, Sun Chips, carrots, ice-cream sandwich and juice.

Wednesday: Rotini with marinara or meat sauce and bread stick, American sub with the works, Goldfish, garden salad, Mandarin oranges and juice.

Thursday: Cheeseburger deluxe with bacon, lettuce and tomato, tuna salad pocket, personal size pizza-pepperoni, steamed broccoli with cheese, pretzels, Goldfish, fresh watermelon and juice.

Friday: Assorted sandwich choic-

MIDDLE SCHOOLS

es, pan pizza, broccoli and celery with dips, jello and topping and juice.

Monday: Deli bar, twin taco on soft shells and toppers, black bean salad, refried beans, Mexican corn and fresh fruit.

Tuesday: Fenway frank or pizza, cheeseburger, jumbo pretzel and yogurt, Boston baked beans, fruit, carrot sticks and ice-cream sandwich.

Wednesday: Italian or American sub, spaghetti with meat sauce, garlic bread, twin cheese omelet, small yogurt, garden salad, strawberry cake and juice.

Thursday: Crunch chicken burger on bulky roll, Buffalo chicken salad, bread stick, Papa Gino's pizza, oven fries, fresh veggies, Mandarin oranges and juice.

Friday: Chicken nuggets and dip-

ANDOVER HIGH SCHOOL

Monday: Steak Caesar wrap, BBQ chicken with pilaf, green, biscuit, grilled chicken with bacon, lettuce and tomato and fresh fruit.

Tuesday: American sub on French bread, pasta bar with meatballs, assorted sauces, garlic bread, garden salad and fresh fruit.

Wednesday: Buffalo chicken wrap, turkey pot pie, whipped potatoes, honey wheat dinner roll, gyro and fresh fruit.

Thursday: Calzones, seasoned broccoli and cauliflower, tuna melt and chilled melon.

Friday: Turkey club, honey BBQ spareribs, steak fries, coleslaw, dinner roll, grilled cheese with tomato and bacon and fresh fruit.

Also available a la carte daily at the elementary and middle schools: bottled water and 100 percent juice; low-fat ice cream and yogurt; bagel with light cream cheese; yogurt; fresh fruit of the season; and milk.

At Andover High School there is a wrap/deli bar with sandwiches made to order with favorite toppings, plus a daily sandwich offering, daily specials and panini specials.

For prices or other information about lunches, call Gail Koutroubas, food services director, at 978-623-8622.

April showers bring bookworms

April is usually a very rainy month in many areas of the United States. As the weather warms, early spring flowers poke up out of the soil.

April comes from a Latin word *aperire*. It means "to open," like flowers opening in the spring.

The phrase, "April showers bring May flowers," is an English idiom.

Idioms are a combination of words, phrases, or expressions that are different from the meanings of the words themselves. The phrases do not always follow the rules of normal meaning and grammar.

There are hundreds of idioms.

Some come from older phrases which have changed over a long period of time.

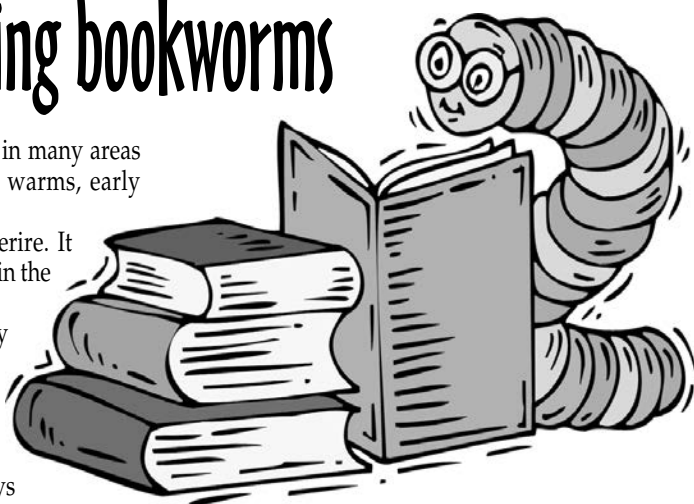
One idiom that comes to mind is "Hold your horses." Today, it means to stop rushing ahead and wait patiently.

In the past, people rode horses for transportation. The idiom started as a request to stop and hold your horses still.

A common sports idiom in the United States and United Kingdom is, "Cover all of your bases." It means to prepare and make sure you have checked everything out. This idiom comes from the American game of baseball where the basemen cover all the bases.

Following are several idioms. Can you figure out what they mean?

- A picture paints a thousand words
- A house divided against itself cannot stand
- A leopard can't change his spots
- Apple of my eye
- Back seat driver
- Back to square one
- Having a bad hair day
- Blind leading the blind
- Chip off the old block
- Cute as a bug's ear
- Face the music
- Get out of the wrong side of the bed
- Got my mojo working
- Pull out all the stops
- Put on your thinking cap



These cartoons represent common phrases or idioms. Can you figure out what the phrases are? What does the phrase mean today?



Newspaper in Education Activity

1. Search your newspaper for articles containing idioms.
2. If you don't find one, try to make one up from a front page story.



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Arts & Entertainment

EVENTS CALENDAR

THURSDAY, APRIL 3

Reception for artists behind the murals in the Butler Bank lobby, 4-6 p.m., Butler Bank, 16 N. Main St., Andover, with light refreshments and a chance to purchase limited edition prints of the murals.

Northern Essex Community College's Top Notch Players present "The Diary of Anne Frank," with Ryan Jennings of Andover, 8-10, 7:30 p.m., through April 6 in the Top Notch Theater on the third floor of the Spurk Building on the Haverhill campus, 100 Elliott St., Haverhill; Jim Murphy at 978-556-3377 or jimurphy@necc.mass.edu.

FRIDAY, APRIL 4

Fashion show: Andover Coalition for Education hosts "Common Threads" to benefit Andover's schools, featuring local merchants and school models; Old Town Hall, 20 Main St., 6:30-11 p.m., \$50 by March 26; Irene Pien, 5 Athena Circle, Andover.

"Cinderella," presented by the Merrimack Junior Theater, 7:30 p.m., Veterans Memorial Auditorium at Doherty Middle School, Bartlet Street, Andover. Tickets are \$8, available at KaBloom and Learning Express in downtown Andover and from cast members; limited number of tickets will be available at the door.

ECOC program: Sharon Stichter, director of New England Hummers, presents images and information about ruby-throats and other less-common New England hummingbird species from 7:45 to 9 p.m. in the Phillips Library Auditorium at the Peabody Essex Museum, East India Square, Salem. This free program by the Essex County Ornithological Club is designed for teens and adults. For more information or to make a reservation, call 978-745-9500, ext. 3011.

Boston Artists Ensemble concert at 8 p.m. in the East India Marine Hall at Peabody Essex Museum, East India Square, Salem. Tickets are \$20 for members, \$24 nonmembers, \$12 students. For more information or tickets, call 978-745-9500, ext. 3011.

"One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest," presented by the Mystic Players of Medford, including Alex Hauk of Andover, The McGlynn School, Medford, 8 p.m., \$15.

Chamber music concert, featuring The Kalliope Piano Trio. Performing are cellist Junko Fujiwara Simons, violinist Kirsii Perttuli and pianist Sandra Hebert, 7:30 p.m., free and open to the public, Timken Room at Graves Hall on the Phillips Academy campus, 180 Main St., Andover; 978-749-4263 or music@andover.edu.

SATURDAY, APRIL 5

Fashion show benefit: Central Catholic High School students and teachers help cancer research with Catwalk for Cancer, 7 p.m., in the school's Memorial Gymnasium, \$10; catwalkforcancer@yahoo.com.

March Madness celebration, in memory of Andover High School three-sport athlete Alex Miliotis, who died of childhood leukemia in 2002. Watch the semifinals in a friendly pub, 5 to 11 p.m., \$75, \$50 under 25, The Brewery Exchange, 201 Cabot St., Lowell; www.alexsteamfoundation.com; also, requested donation is new sports balls.

Afternoon of Chinese art and music,

ON THE WEB
For more
Events Calendar listings
andovertownsman.com

with Chinese brush painting artist Jennifer Fan, the Andover Chinese Chorus, and the Xi Yang Yang Music Ensemble. Memorial Hall Library, 2 p.m., free.

Aniruddha Knight and Ensemble presents "From the Heart of a Tradition" from 4 to 6 p.m. in the Morse Auditorium at Peabody Essex Museum, East India Square, Salem. Knight performs the early 19th-century Bharatanatyam style, singing as he dances. Tickets are \$20 for PEM members and Massachusetts Institute of Technology Heritage of the Arts of South Asia, \$25 nonmembers, \$50 Friends of Indian Dance. Reservations are required by April 3. For more information, call 978-745-9500, ext. 3011.

Auction to benefit the Boys and Girls Club of Lawrence at DiBurro's Function Hall, 887 Boston Road, Haverhill, 5:30 to 11 p.m.; contact Kathy Boshar Reynolds at 978-683-2747, ext. 118, or kboshar@lawrencebgc.com.

"One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest," presented by the Mystic Players of Medford, including Alex Hauk of Andover, The McGlynn School, Medford, 8 p.m., \$15.

Historian Joseph J. Ellis, a Pulitzer Prize-winning author, talks about his new book, "American Creation: Triumph and Tragedies at the Founding of the Republic," at the Massachusetts School of Law, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m., (ideal for Revolutionary War devotees and those interested in our nation's history); 978-681-0800.

"Cinderella," presented by the Merrimack Junior Theater, 7:30 p.m., Veterans Memorial Auditorium at Doherty Middle School, Bartlet Street, Andover. Tickets are \$8, available at KaBloom and Learning Express in downtown Andover and from cast members; limited number of tickets will be available at the door.

Lawrence Film Festival in the atrium of the Franklin Street Campus of Northern Essex Community College in Lawrence, 8 p.m., free. "Dirty Pretty Things", a suspenseful thriller about a Nigerian expatriate doctor and a Turkish chambermaid who get drawn deep into the bowels of the London underground when they accidentally discover an illegal organ harvesting business. R-rated British film. Series will also be held April 12 and 19; Mark Palermo 978-556-3000, ext. 7463, mpalermo@necc.mass.edu, http://neccfilmfest.tripod.com.

Internationally recognized deaf performing artist Peter Cook at Northern Essex Community College's Haverhill Campus, 1 and 7 p.m., appropriate for ages 10 and older. Cook incorporates ASL, pantomime, story telling, acting and movement in demonstrating the technical aspects of ASL storytelling and poetry, \$50 for the workshop and \$20 for full-time students with identification, show prices are \$5 for 10- to 12-year-olds, \$8 for 13- to 18-year-olds and full-time college students and \$15 for adults. Workshop and performance combo prices are

available at the door.

For more information or tickets, call 978-745-9500, ext. 3011.

Please see **EVENTS**, Page 10

Never too late for your close-up



ANGIE BEAULIEU/Staff photo

Mike Pingree of Andover sits at Starbucks in downtown Andover. Pingree, a successful background actor, has lived in town for about 30 years.

Resident Mike Pingree has become a Hollywood 'background'

BY JUDY WAKEFIELD
STAFF WRITER

His Hollywood-esque day planner reads like this: three casting calls last weekend including one for a new sci-fi movie starring Bruce Willis and another movie about dueling brides starring Kate Hudson. His new movie, "21," was released last Friday.

Sure, there's always the chance that Mike Pingree's scenes may end up on the cutting room floor, but so what? That's the life of a movie extra.

There will be other backgrounds needing to be filled with real people, and Pingree, of Summer Street in Andover, will be ready. He's still taking acting and voice lessons as a way to stay in acting shape.

"I still get paid," Pingree laughed. "You get paid even if your scene is cut."

Pingree has recorded his scenes playing a mental-institution guard named Lynch for the movie "Ashecliffe," now being filmed around Boston and directed by Martin Scorsese. He'll be seen as a sea captain in the upcoming PBS series on Walt Whitman that was filmed in New Bedford.

It's the typical life of a struggling 20-something actor looking for that big break, but what's interesting about Pingree is that he is beyond that. He won't divulge his age, but he is old enough for an employer's buyout offer. He took a buyout from his longtime employer, the Boston

Please see **PINGREE**, Page 10



Courtesy photo

Academy Award nominees Amy Madigan and Amy Ryan talk to the press in a scene from the Oscar-nominated movie "Gone Baby Gone." Background actor Mike Pingree of Andover, top right, was part of the press pool.

THE BACKGROUNDER

Background actor Mike Pingree has appeared in several films, including:

- "21" - businessman
- "Gone Baby Gone" - television reporter; photo double for detective
- "The Lonely Maiden" - general background
- "Real Men Cry" - bar patron
- "Pink Panther Part Deux" - paparazzo
- "The Great Debaters" - radio announcer

- "27 Dresses" - wedding guest
- "Dan in Real Life" - general background

TV work includes these background roles:

- "Walt Whitman" (PBS) - sea captain
- "Brotherhood" (Showtime) - waiter
- "The Bronx is Burning" (ESPN) - police detective
- "Waterfront" (CBS) - professor

Weekend offers Chinese celebrations at Memorial Hall library



Courtesy photo

Andover Chinese Chorus Group will perform during An Afternoon of Chinese Art & Music at Memorial Hall Library, April 5.

An afternoon celebration of Chinese art and music will be held at Memorial Hall Library on Saturday, April 5, at 2 p.m.

This free event features Phillips Academy student and artist Jennifer Fan demonstrating Chinese brush painting. Chinese folk performances by the Andover Chinese Chorus and the Xi Yang Yang Music Ensemble will follow.

"Chinese painting has fascinated me ever since the age of 7. This unique form of art combines balance and tranquility in a lively manner, which echoes the grace of Chinese calligraphy," said Fan, an artist and Phillips Academy student, in a release. "It brings peace to my mind whenever I paint, and I hope, in looking at my work, it will bring peace to others."

Fan's art will also be on display at Memorial Hall Library this month. She founded Ink Oasis, a school club meant to combine the beauty of Chinese art with Phillips Academy's "non-sibi" spirit of



Jennifer Fan

"It brings peace to my mind whenever I paint, and I hope, in looking at my work, it will bring peace to others."

Jennifer Fan

community service and awareness. Ink Oasis studies Chinese art and sells finished artwork to help build a medical clinic in Ningxia, China.

The Andover Chinese Chorus, comprised of parents, local residents and their friends, was formed in September 2003. Since its inception, the chorus has performed regularly in Andover and throughout New England. Members of the chorus participated in the fourth International Choir Olympic Games in 2006. The chorus, directed by Wanjun Qiao with piano accompanist Ling Guo, will perform traditional and folk songs

including America the Beautiful, Half Moon Rising, A La Mu Han and Jasmine Flower. The Xi Yang Yang Music Ensemble was founded in 1999 by seven Chinese music enthusiasts in the Boston area. Currently, the XYX has about 20 members playing more than 10 types of instruments. It covers the styles of traditional, folk and popular Chinese music pieces for solo, small and medium ensembles. The XYX will perform songs including A Happy Year, Er-Hu Solo: The Cherished Wish of Hong-Hu and The Spring of Tianshan.

For more information, call 978-623-8401, ext. 49, or visit www.mhl.org.

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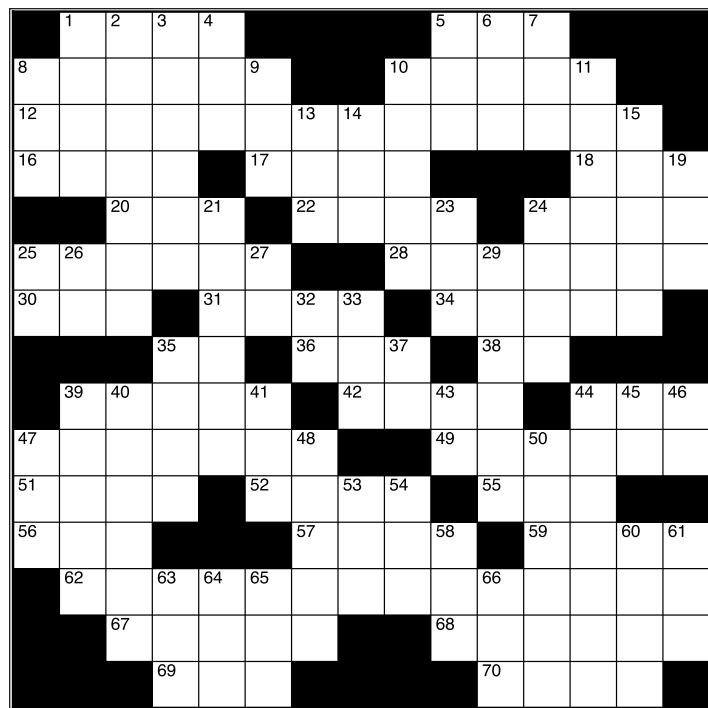
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CLUES ACROSS

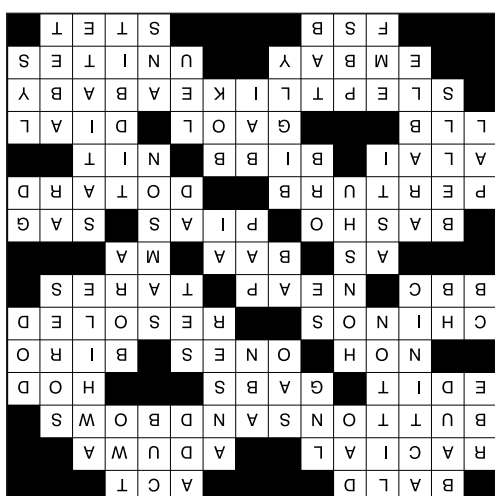
- 1. Lacking hair
- 5. Behave in a certain manner
- 8. About race
- 10. Ethiopian town
- 12. Early D. Shore hit song
- 16. Copyread
- 17. Talks
- 18. Mortar trough
- 20. Japanese classical theater
- 22. Digits
- 24. Ballpoint pen
- 25. Popular casual slacks
- 28. Mended shoes
- 30. London radio station
- 31. Less than average tide
- 34. Counterbalances
- 35. Equally
- 36. The cry made by sheep
- 38. 1/1000 of an ampere
- 39. Haiku poet Matsuo
- 42. Indian arrowroots
- 44. Droop
- 47. Throw out of kilter
- 49. Impaired older person
- 51. Jai __ sport
- 52. Supports trestletree
- 55. __ wit: silly person
- 56. Bachelor of Laws
- 57. Jail

CLUES DOWN

- 1. Data speed measure
- 2. Sun exposure keratosis
- 3. Yahoo News cartoonist Drew
- 4. Vietnamese Islands
- 5. Determine the sum of
- 6. A young bear
- 7. Small integer
- 8. Rainbow effect
- 9. Liquefied natural gas
- 10. Typical geese
- 11. For a short time
- 13. __ Paulo, city
- 14. Airborne (abbr.)
- 15. Skin lesions
- 19. Rumsfeld was director
- 21. Japanese island
- 23. Fixed in one's purpose
- 24. Fr. polynesian island (x2)

- 25. A radio band
- 26. Halfback
- 27. Point midway between S and E
- 29. __ and Delilah
- 32. Blood type
- 33. Soft diet
- 35. __ Spumante (wine)
- 37. Three-toed sloth
- 39. Ringing instruments
- 40. Cultivatatable
- 41. Sphere
- 43. Public promotion
- 44. Eat to your fill
- 45. One of the 6 noble gases
- 46. A rare earth
- 47. Buddy
- 48. Largely
- 50. Choice morsel
- 53. "The Crow" actress Ling
- 54. Chinese cabbage __ choy
- 58. Roman monetary unit
- 60. Assist in wrongdoing
- 61. No. French river
- 63. Electromotive force
- 64. WGBH and WNET
- 65. Accumulated bar bill
- 66. Am. coin collectors organization

Solution



PINGREE: SAG members preferred

Continued from Page 9

Herald, in 2005. He could be an ex-newspaper man in post-mid-life crisis mode.

Instead, he has caught the movie wave currently sweeping New England. With the state's new film tax incentives, 88 productions have filmed part or all of their projects in Massachusetts, according to Brian Wallace of Boston, a state representative on the House committee that revived the state's film office. The year before the law was passed, four productions were filmed in Massachusetts.

Filmmakers are coming east to shoot movie scenes because the price is right, and Pingree has jumped on board.

"It's not like I was dying to be an actor. I had some time, just took some acting classes and then I went to a casting call for 'Gone Baby Gone' and I got it," Pingree said of his background role in the Oscar-nominated movie. "I was a television reporter.

"Working as a background extra has been great. It's wonderful to change course and to be doing this," said Pingree, who has lived in town for 30 years. "It's interesting to me to be on the sets."

Last Friday, a friend of his saw the just-released movie about card counters in Las Vegas, "21." Pingree plays a background businessman who steps out of a men's room.

"She went with her son, who said, 'There he is.' But when she looked, the scene was over. I'm on for about three seconds,"

CASTING CALLS

A typical weekend for Pingree is all about movie casting calls. Here are the three movies being filmed in Massachusetts that had calls last weekend:

- "Surrogates" starring Bruce Willis, Rhada Mitchell Felt Nightclub - Boston
- "This Side of the Truth" starring Ricky Gervais, Jennifer Garner Lowell warehouse
- "Bride Wars" starring Kate Hudson, Anne Hathaway East Weymouth

laughed Pingree.

Serious about his new profession, but in no way too serious about himself, Pingree was asked about working closely with Hollywood A-listers, such as Scorsese and Ben Affleck, the Cambridge native who directed "Gone Baby Gone."

"It's a job for them and they take it very seriously. Background actors are told not to distract the actors and to be quiet. That's what you do," he said.

A typical shoot for him usually means driving to the designated location city (Connecticut and Rhode Island are also hot spots for filming) and then being bused to the specific address for filming. Other background actors are also on the bus.

These backgrounders are usually Screen Actors Guild members, like Pingree, and that card-holding status sure comes in handy at casting calls. He said some 5,000 people turned out for a casting call for "Ashecliffe."

SAG members go to the front of the line.

It's the way of life now for Pingree, who is enjoying this new chapter in his life. He was a national and foreign news editor at the Boston Herald for 25 years and worked at The Eagle-Tribune as the police reporter for the 10 years prior to that. He still writes a weekly humor column for the Boston Herald called "Through the Looking Glass" that is distributed to 500 smaller newspapers and college newspapers around the country.

He is also the neighborhood geography guru as he teaches the subject to a small group of kids. Pingree plays bridge weekly with a group of local women and is a lector at St. Augustine Church in Andover. He handled the Easter readings for both the 9:30 and 11 a.m. Masses held downstairs in the church building.

Of Lithuanian descent, Pingree can speak a few words and phrases in that language. As for that Boston accent that seems to be getting a lot of Hollywood attention these days, he asks those in charge at casting calls if they want to hear it. He turns it on if the answer is yes.

"It's just really fun for me, doing this," he said. "I plan to keep doing it and see where it leads me."

EVENTS

Continued from Page 9

\$60 for an adult and \$25 for a full-time college student or individuals over 65, spoken English interpretation will be provided at both events; Pauline Ballentine at the Gal-laudet University Regional Center at NECC, 978-556-3701 or pballentine@necc.mass.edu.

Music Together, the early childhood music program, will offer free open house classes, South Church, 41 Central St., 10:15 a.m. Families of children ages 0-4 are invited to meet and sing with current Music Together families to learn about the program; 978-688-3326 to reserve your space, www.musictogetheraroundthetowns.com.

SUNDAY, APRIL 6

Organ concert, Merrimack Valley Chapter of the American Guild of Organists, 3 p.m., Methuen Memorial Music Hall, Methuen. Free, donations encouraged; www.mmmh.org.

Atria Marland Place and Angel Home Care will host Faith Praise Band; contemporary Christian music, from Faith Lutheran Church at 3 p.m.

Cook and author Mary Ann Esposito, book signing to benefit scholarships by Lawrence Ladies Lodge 2026, Order Sons of Italy in America, 2 to 5 p.m., The Book Rack, 52 State St., Newburyport; 978-462-8615.

"Taming the Female Body," slide lecture by feminist scholar Max Dashu, sponsored by the Women's Spirituality Series, 7 p.m., Unitarian Universalist Congregation, 6 Locke St., Andover, free, open to the public; 978-475-4454.

Musical, "Anne of Green Gables," 2 p.m., UMass Lowell Center for the Arts, Durgin Hall, 35 Wilder St., on the UMass Lowell South Campus, \$12. Contact 978-934-4444, www.uml.edu/centerforarts; recommended for ages 5 and up.

The Andover Chamber Music Series presents "Voices of Nature," 4 p.m., the Rogers Center for the Arts at Merrimack College, North Andover, \$30/\$25, children under 18 are free, \$8 for students with a college ID; 978-474-6222 or info@andoverchambermusic.org.

Entering Andover: By Don Mathias



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Opinion

Budget position has familiar look

Andover has been here before, financially. The rock and hard place look familiar.

The rock: Many Andover residents want to continue to give the school department the money school leaders say they need to keep the system as one of the best in the state. And school parents can organize and get what they want at Town Meeting.

The hard place: Even more citizens are tapped out — or don't believe enough unreasonable expenses have been removed from the budget — to support the Proposition 2½ override necessary to maintain the rate of growth that school supporters want. Most property owners don't want to raise their taxes permanently above the amount otherwise allowed under state law.

In the past, to support other spending, Andover has tried delaying maintenance projects, which only led to greater costs as building problems worsened. Eventually, the quietly growing bills came due.

Andover has tried tapping reserve accounts to continue school spending increases that could only be maintained with overrides after the one-year money was spent. But Andover has never approved a Proposition 2½ override to run the town. When the cuts come, they are even deeper.

We hope Andover leadership has learned from these mistakes and does not go down these circular paths again.

People know what needs to be done for a long-term solution. Most of the money in the budget is set during contract negotiations on salaries and benefits. Leaders can identify the large bumpout projects that shouldn't be a priority and the perks that are out of whack — such as the pricey payment for employees' unused sick time.

There is some evidence change has started. As new contracts have asked Andover workers to pick up more of their health costs, the rate of increase of health insurance has slowed. Some of the ebb may be that most spouses of town employees already have left their companies' health plans for the more generous public health plan offered by Andover. But it would seem that most of the decrease is caused by public employees picking up more of the cost themselves. Still, as School Committee member Deb Silberstein says, more will need to be done.

Last year, town leaders talked about getting together months in advance of the new year to unite, analyze the budget, prioritize expenses, cut waste and support what is most important as a team. Next year, they need to actually do this. In the meantime, they'll need to find those budget items that are least effective, popular or crucial to public well being and tighten the belt — just as many taxpayers have been doing at home.

LEARNING ABOUT OTHER CULTURES



CARL RUSSO/Staff photo

Andover High School is celebrating foreign language week. The school's language teachers have planned special events each day this week. Sophomore Chiara Raponi talks about Italy, the country her father, Alberto, was born in. He came from a town called Lazio.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

School money is well spent

Editor, Townsman:

The cost to educate a child is escalating at an alarming rate. But this problem is not unique to Andover. Budgets for most Massachusetts communities are straining from unfunded mandates in special education, compliance with the No Child Left Behind Act, and rising health insurance and utility costs. How towns choose to deal with this problem is what makes them different. In Andover, a combination of cost-cutting and wise spending has allowed our public schools to continue delivering a high level of education in tough financial times. But that education is now threatened by demands for more cuts from the school budget. We cannot let that happen.

Cost-cutting in the School Department has been ongoing for many years. The last two teacher contracts have made changes to health insurance plans that will help Andover slow the rising cost of health care, but it continues to go up. The furnaces used to heat our school buildings have been converted to accept oil or natural gas so we can take advantage of the best prices available, all of which are still very high. Many special education students have been moved back into town to save on costly transportation and tuition to out-of-district special education schools, but the regulations and fee hikes persist. Teachers and principals are working without supervisors or support staff, despite the best efforts of the PTOs to provide financial and administrative help.

The Department of Education reports that Andover's total per-pupil school spending is at the state average, with more spent in areas that directly impact student learning such as teachers, counseling and out-of-district schools, and less spent in areas to support that learning such as administration, professional development and instructional material. This spending profile is just as we should want it to be, whether we are parents, budget-conscious citizens, or both. More is spent on the students and less is spent on overhead. In spite of this average spending, Andover students are far from average. They continue to outperform the state average in MCAS and AP exams. They also win state and national awards in academics and sports. This proves taxpayers are getting tremendous value for every dollar spent on schools. We should continue to support them.

On April 30, Andover will gather for Town Meeting and decide how we deal with our budget problem. The choice we make will speak volumes about the quality of our town. Let's support the School Department budget.

Debbie Begos
6 Wabanaki Way

Draining savings only makes matters worse

Editor, Townsman:

A responsible plan for reducing Andover's budget deficit will require Town Meeting action to increase taxes or reduce spending. Rather than seeking new revenues or demanding fiscal discipline, some who want more money to fund School Department requests are advocating the use of one-time funds to balance the budget. Draining the town's savings accounts to fund ongoing operating costs only postpones inevitable cuts and makes the town's overall financial situation much worse the following year. Tapping reserves so that we can continue to spend more than we can reasonably expect to collect in revenues perpetuates our problems rather than forcing local government to learn to live within its means. Next year's deficit is projected to be significantly larger than this year's. We may not have a long-term solution yet but, at the very least, we should not be compounding the problem.

Maintaining adequate reserves is critical to the financial stability of our community. Free Cash, the Stabilization Fund and the Phillips Academy Fund all count as reserves. Andover needs reserves so that it will have the ability to absorb and unanticipated drop in revenues or a large unforeseen expenditure without layoffs or service cuts. For example, we have relied on Free Cash to cover unusually high special education costs, to provide additional funding for snow removal in a bad winter, and to pay for unanticipated spikes in health insurance and energy costs. It is hard to overstate the havoc that would be created if budgets had to be cut mid-year to cover these large expenditures.

Reserves earn interest income, generating revenue to support town and school operations. Reserves also play a critical role in providing sufficient liquidity to pay bills on time and avoid short-term borrowing costs. It is obvious why bond rating agencies track reserve levels as one measure of a community's fiscal health. A pattern of declining reserves is cause for concern. When town and school officials are fiscally responsible, budgets are stable and predictable, less is spent on interest, and more money becomes available to spend on valuable public services.

Joanne Marden
Andover Finance Committee
144 Argilla Road

No override: Cut and use reserves instead

Editor, Townsman:

Barbara Anderson, director of Citizens for Limited Taxation, must be perplexed at hearing about Andover's decision to insert a Proposition 2½ override article in this year's Town Meeting warrant.

What are they thinking? Where is the support for an override article coming from — individual taxpayers or groups of concerned citizens? Based on recently published findings, fewer than 40 percent of override articles passed in Massachusetts in 2007. The school budget supporters recently withdrew a private override article because they knew it was not a viable option this year. On March 25, Andover's voters rejected the Community Preservation Act with its 1 percent surcharge on local taxes. No one with whom I have spoken plans to support an override at Town Meeting this year. There also do not appear to be any organized groups

promoting an override vote.

Selectmen, with concurrence of the Finance Committee, has opted to solve the current budget gap with a Prop. 2½ override article that is dead on arrival at Town Meeting.

But there is still hope. A series of 10 financing options recently prepared by members of the School and Finance committees are being considered as viable approaches to solving the budget gap. These plans seek to balance this year's budget with a series of budget cuts in the school and town government departments along with transfers of available revenues from the town's rainy day funds, with no additional increases in real estate taxes.

There is talk of further meetings of the Tri-Board Group to hammer out a deal, but no meetings have been officially posted on the town's Web site. I continue to be hopeful an agreement can be realized. However, my enthusiasm is beginning to wane.

Without an agreement among the respective boards in the near future, the voters will be obliged to solve the funding problem at Town Meeting. There will likely be different solutions that voters can choose from. In my view, the citizens of Andover will continue to place a high priority on education as they head to Town Meeting on April 30.

I continue to urge the boards to find common ground on a budget that is in the best interests of the entire community. There is still time ... but the clock is ticking.

Bill Pennington
46 Clark Road

Town is in need of cash, but is buying sick time?

Editor, Townsman:

We are told the town of Andover is saving money buying back sick time. What is it that I don't understand? *Sick time* is when you're sick, not a commodity to be bought and sold. This sort of thinking is like going to the store during a sale, buying \$150 of stuff that you do not need, because it cost only \$100. You "saved" \$50. Good on ya! Not, however, my thought on economy.

I have worked both for a large and small company. The United States Air Force is large and I assure you, "buying/selling" sick time did not happen. You could carry forward a limited amount of vacation, not sick time. I have also been intimately involved in management of a small company, my practice in Andover, for over 30 years. When someone was sick, we did not (and could not) rush out to hire a replacement, even at time and a half. Those who were there simply pitched in and covered. That is not to say there were not people out sick, but I challenge anyone to compare lost time due to sickness in small privately-owned businesses versus the public domain. I have no figures; I'd like to have. I am confident, however, the findings would be startling. There is vacation time (two to six weeks), there is personal time, there is holiday time, there may even be some "special occasion" time; mostly pre-scheduled. This leaves most folks with about 10 months of work time (some with far less). Sick time should be just that — a benefit to be used when you're really sick. These days are cost to the employer, not times to be bought and sold by employees. Where did this all start anyway? Are there controls/limits? Must one be sick on Friday or Monday as on Wednesday? Does anyone monitor, know — or care?

Seems like the town, now in need

of cash, threatening a forever compounding tax override, could do well and save some money by revisiting this policy, essentially unique to their employees. There is a real agenda item for Town Meeting.

Calvin Perry, O.D.
25 Timothy Drive

Maintain schools now, go for override in 2009

Editor, Townsman:

As we approach Town Meeting there are several questions that need to be answered. What happened to the long-range financial plan following Town Meeting 2007? Why was the focus not on an override for town and school services from the beginning? What is the purpose of pushing for an override that is doomed to failure at this late date? How can our leaders even suggest an override that does not address the comprehensive needs of the whole town?

Members of the School Committee, along with representatives of the selectmen and Finance Committee, collaboratively crafted a number of options that would cut the current school requests and, among other things, draw on the "rainy day" fund to settle this year's budget gap. At last week's selectmen's meeting, however, these options seemed all but dismissed; the board voted for the "available revenue number," \$2.1 million less than the School Department's request.

Though the selectmen chairman readily admits Andover faces an even bigger deficit problem for next fiscal year, the board has proposed a poorly thought out override article that does not address the needs of the town as a whole or the deepening fiscal problem. How can the citizens make an intelligent decision on a tax override that is thrown out to them 30 days prior to the Town Meeting — or is it just a political tactic? It has been obvious for a long time that Andover needs to increase its revenue base.

It is a disservice to Andover citizens that there continues to be reluctance to bring forward a list of services for all town departments. The police chief speaks of being 10 to 12 officers under the recommended level for a town of our size. Are we serving all age groups when Elder, Community and Youth services try to grow with such limited budget support? Several other departments, including the fire department, could certainly have brought forth requests for services had there been an earlier plan for an override.

The School Department, on the other hand, has had the courage to put forth a budget that strives to maintain current levels of service for the students. It is the job of the superintendent to maintain and sustain a vision of excellence. Is it unreasonable for the School Committee and the superintendent to want to preserve what has been built? Do we as a community want our school system to go backwards?

Hopefully all three boards can together find a solution, allowing the schools to serve the students the way this town should, even if it does entail using money from the "rainy day" fund.

We beg our leaders to be proactive after Town Meeting for next year's budget and to put together, promote and endorse an override for the entire town!

Andrea Zaines, Williams Street
Diane Costagliola, Belknap Drive
Sue Conway, Stoneybrook Circle
Mary Miller, Noel Road
Denise Bordonaro, Meadowview Lane

WEB QUESTION

What should be the town's priorities?

Last week's Andover Townsman Web question was, "If a Jennifer Garner movie is filmed in Andover, would you want to be an extra?"

■ Nearly 76.5 percent of those responding said, "Yes."
■ About 23.5 percent said, "No."

This week's Web-site question is, "What is your priority

for town spending?"

Maintaining buildings, roads and other infrastructure.

- Schools.
- Police and fire.
- Services for elderly and youth.
- Other.

To vote, visit www.andovertownsman.com and scroll to the bottom of the home page.

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LETTERS POLICY

The Townsman accepts letters to the editor from the community. Letters should be typed, no longer than 350 words and must include writer's name, address and phone number (numbers will not be published). We reserve the right to edit letters for length, clarity and style. Deadline is Monday at 9 a.m. for the next edition.

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E-mail: nfater@andovertownsman.com. Please include the letter in the body of the e-mail, not as an attachment.

Saints Health Monitor

The monthly health update from Saints Medical Center

Volume II Issue 3 April 2008

Pioneering Knee Surgery Performed at Saints Medical Center

Orthopedic surgeons at Saints Medical Center are pioneering a new minimally invasive option to treat painful arthritis. When total joint replacement of the knee is too extreme and other treatments do not provide adequate relief, this could be the answer for some.

Scott Sigman, MD, an orthopedic surgeon at Saints Medical Center, recently performed one of the country's first patella resurfacing surgeries. This is a promising new treatment for patients with early disease of the patello-femoral joint, the area where the kneecap and the lower thigh bone work together. Normally, the kneecap or patella moves as you bend and extend your leg. When the patella does not move as it should, damage to surrounding cartilage can occur.

"The kneecap is frequently the source of pain and discomfort due to trauma, inflammation, misalignment or arthritis – all common conditions that may lead to a decrease in physical activity levels," said Dr. Sigman. "When pain occurs and the quality of life declines, that's when most people decide it is time to see an orthopedic surgeon."

Dr. Sigman believes replacing the entire joint is not always the best answer to healing a painful knee. "Total joint replacement can sometimes be too much surgery for minimal damage," he observed. "Depending on the degree of cartilage injury, some patients may be candidates for physical therapy, realignment or arthroplasty. When these methods fail to alleviate pain and replacing



the joint is not completely necessary, this less invasive procedure is a good option."

A major benefit of resurfacing surgery is that it can be performed as a "same day" surgical procedure that does not require an overnight hospital stay. Less pain and trauma means faster rehabilitation and a faster recovery time in returning to a normal lifestyle.

Early results for this leading-edge procedure at Saints are extremely encouraging.

For more information about patella resurfacing surgery and other orthopedic services call the Saints Orthopedic Center, at 978-446-2793.



Scott Sigman, MD

Total Knee Replacement Provides Relief from Chronic Pain



When rheumatoid arthritis, osteoarthritis and other degenerative conditions cause significant joint pain and discomfort, a surgical procedure known as total knee replacement (TKR) helps more than 300,000 Americans each year to get moving again.

"When other treatments fail to correct the painful situation, surgery may be the best option," said David Morley, MD, an orthopedic surgeon at Saints Medical Center. "Fortunately, TKR can help put an end to pain and enables the patient to return to a functional and active lifestyle with only a few restrictions."

While there are several surgical techniques associated with TKR, the most typical procedure involves removing the diseased bone and cartilage from the thighbone, shinbone and the kneecap (patella). These surfaces are then replaced with a

metal and plastic implant, which mimics natural knee motion and function.

Dr. Morley explained that candidates for TKR are generally adults over age 55. For younger adults who are physically active and complain about joint problems, the orthopedic specialist may recommend non-surgical treatments such as medications, physical therapy or a partial knee replacement, which replaces fewer components than TKR.

"The best candidates for surgery are healthy adults free from such conditions as restricted blood flow, diabetes or infections," Dr. Morley stressed. "Obesity does not necessarily disqualify the surgical candidate from TKR but it can result in prolonged rehabilitation, as well as increasing the risk of infection."

Following surgery, most patients have some temporary pain in the new joint because the surrounding muscles are weak from inactivity and the tissue needs time to heal.

"Under normal conditions, knee replacement patients are able to walk freely and return to the workplace in six weeks after surgery," added Dr. Morley. When fully recovered at eight weeks, many patients can resume physical activities such as golf and swimming.

For further information about TKR and other Saints orthopedic services call 978-446-2793.



David Morley, Jr., MD

One Hospital Drive, Lowell, MA 01852
SaintsMedicalCenter.com
978-458-1411

Meet Saints New Orthopedic Coordinator

In this issue John McDonald, PA, Saints Orthopedic Coordinator, answers questions about total knee replacement (TKR).



Q. What is the best advice you can give to someone contemplating TKR?

A. Talk to your orthopedic surgeon about what the procedure can and cannot accomplish. TKR is very successful and most patients experience significant pain relief and greater mobility. It will not give back your youth nor will it allow you to do more than you could before surgery.

Q. What happens after surgery?

A. Patients receive physical therapy to learn the proper techniques for getting in and out of bed, up and down from a chair, and walking with a walker or crutches. The therapist will review an exercise program designed to increase range of motion and strength. Patients also learn techniques for bathing and dressing after surgery as well as the use of assistance devices.

Q. What about rehabilitation after discharge?

A. Most patients are discharged directly home. Others may go to a facility that specializes in short-term stay and rehabilitation. In either setting, patients need to follow the exercise instructions given to them by their rehab team. Exercise is a critical component of post-TKR care, particularly during the first few weeks.

Meet Our Orthopedic Staff

Orthopedic specialists at Saints have extensive training and experience in the most current surgical and non-surgical treatments.

Steven Alter, MD	Mark Lapp, MD
Samuel Gerber, MD	David Morley, Jr., MD
Eric Holstein, MD	Scott Sigman, MD
Lawrence Johnson, MD	

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Townspeople

AHS athletic director to retire in June



CARL RUSSO/Staff photo

Dave Nichols is retiring after 32 years in the Andover public school system and the last five years as the Andover High School athletic director.

Adjunct professorship at BU is next step for resident

By JUDY WAKEFIELD
STAFF WRITER

Dave Nichols likes to watch people enjoy the events he plans. The co-athletic director for Andover High School said that's what he will miss most when he retires in June after 32 years in the Andover schools. "You're like a wedding planner, making sure everything is all set for the big game," he said. "It's our house and it's exciting whether it's a football game, a basketball game ... People come to our house to enjoy it. That is what I will miss."

"I have enjoyed that quiet time before a game, getting ready, then seeing everyone have fun," he said. In a school with 1,700 roster spots on 70 athletic teams, planning for sporting events is no easy task. While the big championship games get the most publicity, some of the lesser-known games are the ones etched in Nichols' memory. "... Like a really close freshman vol-

leyball game," he said. "Championships are great, but there is so much more to sports. There's a sense of belonging when you're on a team and I'm proud of being able to promote that," said Nichols.

Nichols has held his AD job for the past five years. He is also the health education director of town schools and started his Andover teaching career as an adaptive physical education teacher working with children with special needs.

Reflecting on those early days bring back lots of happy memories for Nichols. He helped youngsters ride bicycles for the first time and enjoyed seeing children with Down syndrome adjust to school.

For 20 years, he coached Special Olympics. When the organization honored athlete Denise Carriere from Andover earlier this year, he stood quietly in the background at the ceremony while she tearfully looked at him and told people that Nichols brought her to her first Special Olympics.

Nichols clearly made an impact on Carriere and others in town. He points to research when asked why he cares so much.

Studies show that at-risk behavior in kids decreases when they have a chance to participate in activities like sports. A staunch believer in this research, he has worked hard to offer students that chance at Andover High.

"Our participation rate is 50 percent of our kids are playing an average of two sports ... that's a good rate," he explained. "Kids who are involved — and it doesn't have to be a championship team — are shown to lead productive lives. We're able to promote that piece of helping a kid go on to lead a productive life."

Come September, he will retire from the Andover public schools and become an adjunct professor at Boston University. He will teach courses to students majoring in health.

Appropriately, it will be a homecoming of sorts for this athletic director.

"Championships are great, but there is so much more to sports. There's a sense of belonging when you're on a team and I'm proud of being able to promote that."

Dave Nichols

Nichols earned his undergraduate and master's degrees at BU. He feels as if he's come full circle.

But Andover High will continue to be a part of that circle.

"I will still go to games," he said.

Nichols could walk to them, as he lives nearby on Smithshire Estates with his wife, Debbie Nichols, a kindergarten teacher at Bancroft Elementary School. They have two daughters, Kate, who attends Babson College, and Hannah, who attends Brooks School in North Andover.

"I'll be around," he said smiling. "Andover High is a nice place to be."

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Rattlesnakes and development

Bill Dalton



Andover's move to its modern era began in the late 1940s, when new industry brought population growth. Then, in the late 1950s and early '60s, the dual construction of Interstate 93 and Route 495 dramatically changed the town, more than any other event in the 20th Century. This was a time of intense transition and adaptation, requiring the town to make numerous decisions that had long-term effects. Many of these decisions made Andover what it is today.

During the transition years, you can look at any Townsman and see articles emblematic of where Andover had been and where it was going. The following stories appeared in February and March 1960 editions of the Townsman.

Rattlesnake Hill Road

Prior to the 1960 Annual Town Meeting, William Moriarty, a resident of Rattlesnake Hill Road, proposed changing the road's name to Greenleaf Road. He said that the word "Rattlesnake" made selling property on the road difficult. However, townspeople were appalled at the idea of changing the name of the ancient road.

At a hearing before the selectmen, Bessie Goldsmith, an elderly eminence, explained how the road got its name. Miss Goldsmith, who'd been a columnist with the Andover Townsman for many years, was not only widely respected for her intelligence and work for the town, she was a bit eccentric as well. She was often seen smoking her pipe while strolling around town, and she was known to have chased blueberry-pickers off her property with a .22 rifle in hand. Miss Goldsmith said Rattlesnake Hill Road came by the name rightfully and that one of her great grandparents had deeded the road to the town in exchange for other property. Indeed, rattlesnakes had been killed on the hill and one of the rattles was in the possession of Mrs. George Burridge, formerly of Bancroft Road. Mrs. Burridge's brother, Harold Suanders, had killed that particular rattler.

As to the road's history, according to Goldsmith, it was part of a horse and foot trail to Boston before the turnpike from Andover to Boston was built. The idea of changing the name died much more quickly than the rattlers had. (A Web search indicates that Rattlesnake Hill Road in Andover may be the only road in America with that name.)

Two-Acre Zoning

The big issue at the 1960 Town Meeting, held on Saturday, March 12, was whether Andover should adopt two-acre residential zoning for a third of the town. The proposal covered all the land between the Route 125 bypass (Bypass Road) and the border with North Andover, as well as all of the land between Interstate 93 and the Merrimack River. If passed, it meant that anyone wanting to subdivide residential land in those areas would be required to create house lots of at least two acres. Two-acre zoning had been defeated twice before. However, it was supported by both the Planning Board, headed by Donald Thompson, and the Andover Taxpayer's Association, a private and influential organization headed by Dino Valz. The new town manager, Thomas Duff, was also for it. They argued that the zoning change would preserve Andover's charm and beauty. In addition, bigger lots would reduce the number of newcomers and keep the population and the

Please see DALTON, Page 14

Church hopes to help people listen to higher calling

By BETHANY BRAY
STAFF WRITER

In an age where many folks consider their cell phone an extra appendage, St. Augustine Parish has planned a week of activities for folks to re-evaluate their calling — not via phone, but from God.

St. Augustine's third annual vocations awareness week begins tomorrow, April 4, and runs through next Sunday, April 13. Free and open to the public, organizers have events planned for prayer and reflection on one's own calling. There also will be a vocations stories night, with several guest speakers sharing their stories of how they've heard God's call and followed it.

"The word vocation comes from the Latin, meaning 'a calling.' We believe that we all have a calling in life, be it to be married or to be a priest," said the Rev. Joe Narog, a priest at St. Augustine's. "We're called to do all kinds of things in life, to serve others in the church community and in our lives. Vocation week is a chance for people to reflect on that."

Serving God through a vocation doesn't always mean the priesthood or becoming a missionary, said Narog. It could involve teaching religious education or simply giving to others in your life.

People can have more than one calling in life, said Narog, who has been a priest at St. Augustine's for one year. He heard God's call, he said, after a 15-year career in the government, and decided to join the Order of the Augustinians.

The theme of the week is "What does God want me to do with the life he has given me?" said James



File photo

The Rev. Joe Narog, a priest at St. Augustine, says people can have more than one calling in life. He hopes the church's third annual vocations awareness week will help people listen to their spiritual calling.

Hauer, co-coordinator of the vocations committee at the parish. Vocations fall into three major categories: as a single person, married person or in a religious life.

"Vocations doesn't mean, as I once thought, 'Oh, they're looking

for more priests,'" said Hauer. "He (God) is always asking us to refine and re-evaluate our vocation, what we're doing and how to better serve people."

Guest speakers at this year's vocation stories night, held Thurs-

day, April 10, include a priest who is chaplain to the Ringling Brothers Circus, a religious brother who is a high school president and a lay, married woman who is director of religious education at St. Augustine's.

'WHAT DOES GOD WANT ME TO DO WITH THE LIFE HE HAS GIVEN ME?'

The third annual St. Augustine Parish Vocations Awareness Week will run April 4-13. Events will be held at the church, 43 Essex St. For more information, visit www.staugustineparish.org or call the church at 978-475-0050.

Vocation week events:

■ Friday, April 4 – Prayer for vocations at Eucharistic adoration, 12:30 to 7 p.m., with communal recitation of the Augustinian Corona at 6:45 p.m., followed by benediction.

■ Masses on April 5 and 6 will feature the Rev. Daniel Hennessey, vocations director for the Archdiocese of Boston, and the Rev. Kevin DePrinzio, Augustinian vocations director for the Province of St. Thomas of Villanova.

■ April 6, following the 11 p.m. Mass – the Knights of Columbus will host a light reception at their Council Home.

■ Monday, April 7 – Augustinian friars assist in morning prayer, 8:45 a.m., courtyard of St. Augustine School.

■ Thursday, April 10 – Vocations stories night, 7:30 to 9 p.m., in the parish center for education and ministry.

■ Masses on April 12 and 13 will feature the Rev. Scott Ness, mission office director for Augustinian volunteers on the World Day of Prayer for Vocations. He will address international ministry and mission work.

BIRTHS

TERES SIFLING — A son, Archer Teres Sifling, born to Stephen Sifling and Sarah Teres of Andover on Dec. 22, 2007, at the North Shore Birth Center, Beverly. Archer joins Tula Malia.

KELLEY — A daughter, Meghan Marie Kelley, born to Ted and Carrie (Zawislak) Kelley, on Dec. 23, 2007. Meghan is welcomed home by her brother, Ryan. Grandparents are Ann and Ed Kelley of Andover, Nancy Eliot of Westwood, and John

Zawislak of Attleboro. Great-grandmother is Marion Gallagher of New Jersey.

ATANIAN — A daughter, Adly Alice Atanian, born to Matthew and Amy Heislein Atanian of Paxton, formerly of Andover, on Mar. 16, 2008, at St. Vincents Hospital in Worcester. Grandparents are J. Thomas and Virginia Heislein of Salem, N.H., formerly of Andover, and Alice Atanian of Worcester.

KLEID — A daughter, Charlotte

Moran Kleid, born to Melissa A. Morton and Mark Kleid of Los Angeles, Calif., on Mar. 12, 2008, at USC Medical Center in Los Angeles, Calif. Grandparents are David and Judy Morton of Andover and Jack and Bernice Kleid of La Jolla, Calif. Charlotte joins Samuel Morton Kleid, 3 1/2.

GONSALVES — A daughter, Natalie Grace Gonsalves, born to Jerry and Beth (Williamson) Gonsalves of Clearwater, Fla., on Jan. 28, 2008 at Morton Plant Hospital. Grandparents are Art and Laurie Gonsalves of Andover and David and Sally Williamson of Methuen. Natalie joins Hannah, 11, Jessica, 10, and Veronica 8.

HAVE A STORY YOU WANT TO SHARE?
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Courtesy photo

A view of Main Street, captured by the late photographer Richard Graber in his photo "Main Street with taxis, 1963."

DALTON: Vintage Townsman stories

Continued from Page 13

tax rate down; newcomers meant costly new schools and town services. Henry Wolfson, a past head of the taxpayer's organization, said voting against two-acre zoning was voting for "the city of Andover."

The town election had been held a few days earlier and pre-empted the outcome of the zoning vote. Russell Doyle, a young businessman from West Andover, had easily defeated Thompson and another candidate in the only selectman's race. Doyle was opposed to the zoning change. At Town Meeting he refuted point by point the Planning Board's arguments. Selectman Bill Stewart agreed with Doyle, saying the zoning change would drive up house prices and keep out younger people.

The warrant article, which needed a two-thirds majority, was defeated easily: 342 opposed versus 241 in favor. Later, Mr. Thompson told the Townsman the Planning Board, after seeing the measure defeated for a third time, now had a concise idea of the voters' feelings, and they would proceed with the town's master plan.

Cluster Zoning

Although the two-acre proposal failed, the town approved cluster zoning. This permitted the Plan-

ning Board to approve smaller lots in subdivisions of more than 10 acres. In exchange, the town would receive permanent set-asides of green space. The first cluster zoning proposal came from Karl Killorin, a local developer, who successfully presented a plan for Timothy Drive.

Conservation Commission

There was little argument over the concept of creating a town Conservation Commission, most everyone favored it. Al Retelle, the president of AVIS (Andover Village Improvement Society, a private organization), led the argument in favor of adopting the state law that allowed a town to set up such commissions. Dino Valz of the Taxpayer's Association said the trouble with adopting the state version was that the state required towns to follow state rules and regulations. He was in favor of an independently created Conservation Commission, arguing that it "wouldn't be subject to the whims of the eager beavers on Beacon Hill." The state model was adopted.

Other stories

Although the Townsman's Town Meeting issue gave extensive coverage to that subject, the front page headline was about another matter. The headline read, "Vast shopping center at Tewksbury border." The proposed loca-

tion of the shopping center was at Lowell Street and the new Route 495, but only 25 acres of the project would be in Andover. Developer A. J. Tamboni said nationally-known retail stores would be involved.

A small story said the Newcomer's Club would celebrate its 10th Anniversary by having a well-known speaker discuss, "How To Put Flair In What You Wear."

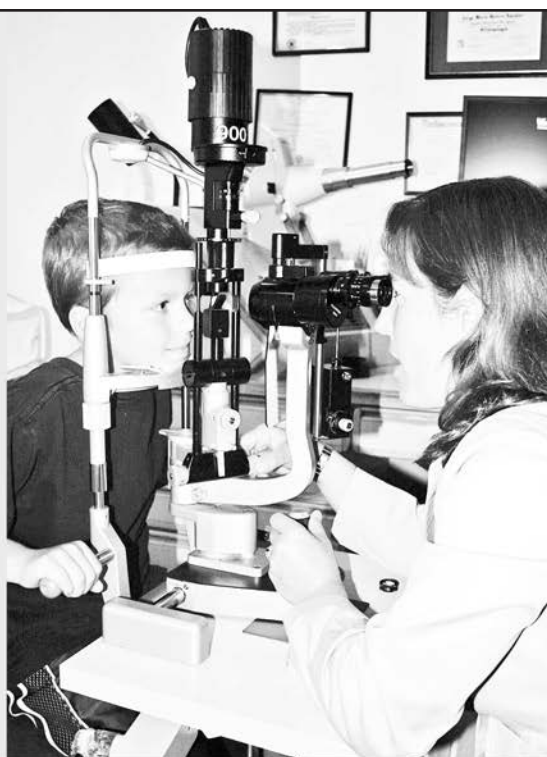
In the Townsman two weeks later was a picture of the Shawshen Plaza taken by photographer Frank Leone. Shown in the picture, from left to right, were the Supreme Cleaners and Elm Farm Super Market, which both opened in 1959. Next to them were Liggett Drugs, Woolworth's and W. T. Grant, all three having just opened.

The main story in that issue was about plans for a 225-acre, 27-hole country club in West Andover. The legendary golfer Sam Snead would be a principal owner. A spokesman said he could not pinpoint the exact location, but the interchanges of Routes 93 and 495 were the primary reason for selecting West Andover, since the highways made the area so accessible.

The transition to modern Andover was well underway.

Bill Dalton writes a weekly column for the Townsman and would like to hear from you. His e-mail is billdalton@andovertownie.com.

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6. Experiencing eye pain or sensitivity to light.
7. Seeing floaters or flashes of light.



Doctor Eagle is a Board Certified Ophthalmologist specializing in Pediatric Care. She is seeing patients in Lawrence, North Andover and Haverhill.

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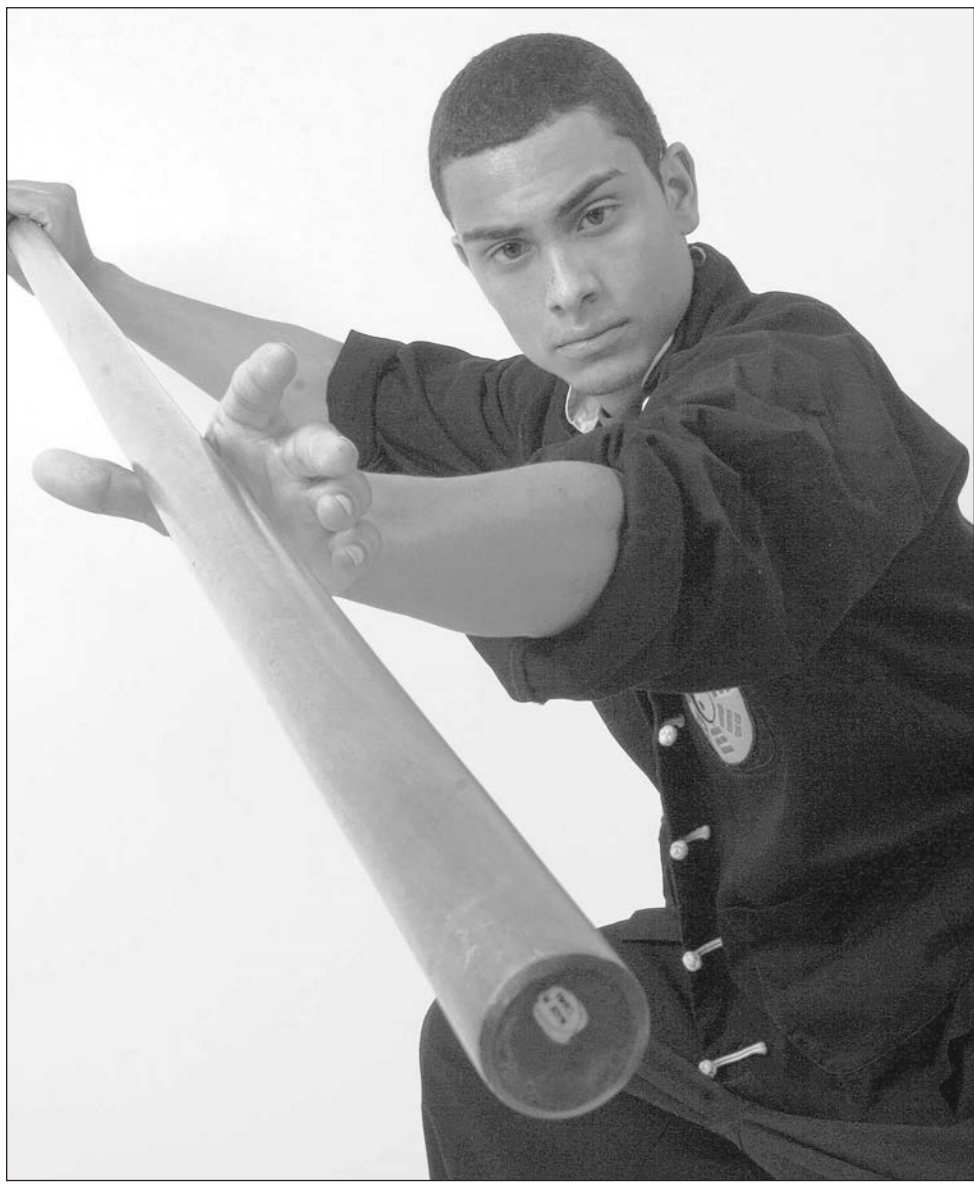
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Sports

VARSITY TRACK



KATIE MCMAHON/Staff photo

Andover's Santi Costello displays his training in kung fu. He credits his martial arts experience with giving him the athleticism and confidence to become a standout in track and an active member of the community.

Kung fu molds Costello on and off the track

BY DAVID WILLIS
STAFF WRITER

Santi Costello's journey to becoming a track standout began unexpectedly.

"When I was 4 years old I got beaten up," he said. "My dad said, 'That's not going to happen again. You're going to learn how to defend yourself.'"

Days later, Costello's father signed him up for kung fu lessons.

Who's on the team?

■ For the complete roster, see Page 17.

Little did he know it would end up shaping his son's life.

"It's because of my martial arts training I have been able to achieve my goals," the Andover High senior said. "It helps me as an athlete, but it is as much physiological as it is physical."

Costello spends at least an hour a day practicing basic kung fu at home and goes to workouts at his studio at least three times a week. He declined to say what his current level is but said he has continued to progress since earning his black belt at age 10.

"Kung fu is all about self-defense," he said. "Karate is flashy. People don't really grasp the con-

Please see **COSTELLO**, Page 17

'Ultimate overachiever' also elite scholar-athlete

BY DAVID WILLIS
STAFF WRITER

Kayley Pettoruto surprised even herself at All-States this winter.

"Last year I barely made the state cut in the 600," she said. "This season I placed fourth at All-States. That is a pretty big leap."

That fourth, in 1:37.14 while running in an unseeded heat, earned crucial points in helping Andover squeak past Newton South 36-32½ for the All-State title.

"She's gone from an average quarter-miler to one of the best in the state," coach Peter Comeau said. "She has worked harder than anyone, and she is the backbone of our 4x400 relay team."

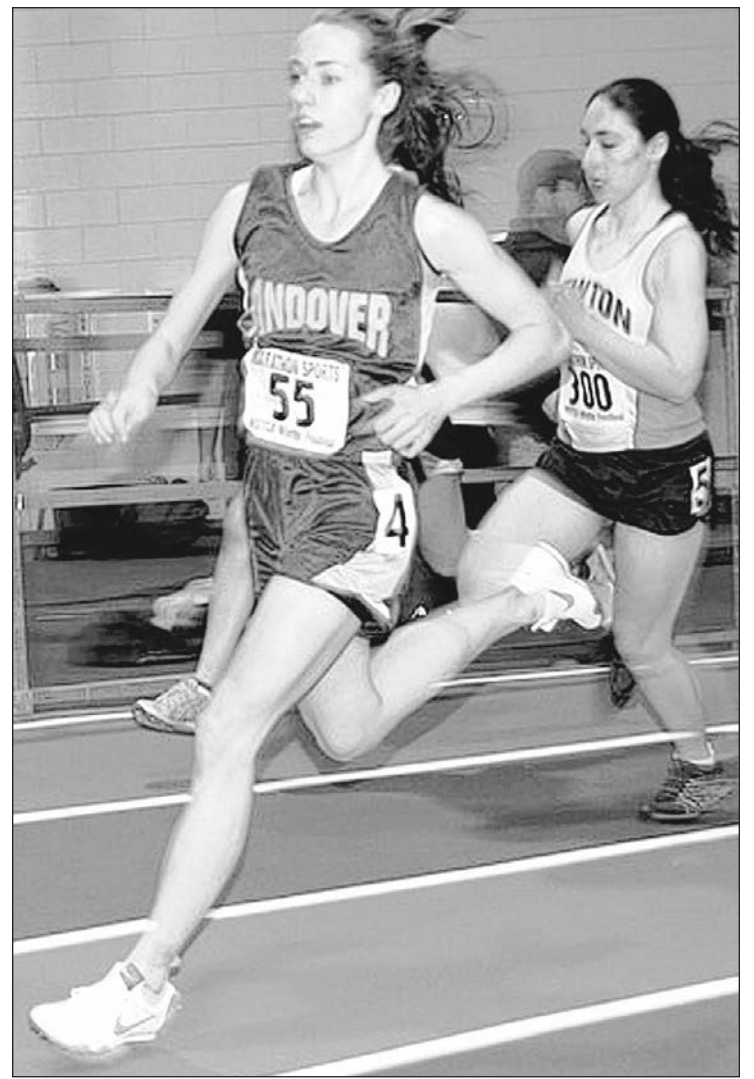
Pettoruto ran the second leg of the 4x400 team that won at Division 1 states and placed second at All-States. They finished the season by taking eighth at the Scholastic Indoor Nationals in New York in both the 4x400 and the sprint medley.

Not bad for someone who never considered herself a talented athlete.

She tried basketball her freshman year, but called herself "uncoordinated." She made the varsity soccer team this year, but said her greatest contributions were as a "cheerleader." Even in track, she only threw the javelin as a freshman. But she kept working and continued to grow.

Pettoruto plans to carry that

Please see **PETTORUTO**, Page 17



Courtesy photo

Kayley Pettoruto flies around the track at the Reggie Lewis Center this winter. The senior has emerged as a top sprinter and gained early acceptance into the Tufts University premed program.

GIRLS TRACK

Returning lettermen: Mallory Cayon, Sr., hurdles; Carolyn Dampousse, Sr., jumper; Bizzy DiTroia, Sr., sprinter; Jen George, Sr., distance; Casey Harrison, Sr., distance; Christina Muccio, Sr., sprinter; Kayley Pettoruto, Sr., sprinter; Sarah York, Sr., sprinter; Leah Cairns, Jr., sprinter; Alex Centrella, Jr., distance; Laura Cody, Jr., middle distance; Maura Fitzgerald, Jr., distance; Cassie Huang, Jr., distance; Melissa Knapp, Jr., sprinter; Jessie Miller, Jr., distance; Colleen Shannon, Jr., distance; Jillian Ricciardelli, Jr., distance; Vanessa Singleton, Soph., multi; Abbey Pettoruto, Soph., jumper; Tori Markus, Soph., thrower; Alyssa Cummings, Soph., hurdles; Molly Van Doren, Soph., distance

Newcomers: Sarah Oteri, Soph., distance; Kayla Baldwin, Frosh., hurdles; Chelsea Angelosanto, Frosh., sprinter; Rae

Bronenkant, Frosh., sprinter; Hannah Fitzgerald, Frosh., sprinter; Sydney Eberth, Frosh., jumper/sprinter

Candidates in all grades: 115

Captains: Christina Muccio, Bizzy DiTroia, Mallory Cayon, Kayley Pettoruto

Returning honorees: Colleen Shannon, Eagle-Tribune All-Star; 4x100 relay team (Bizzy DiTroia, Melissa Knapp, Vanessa Singleton, Chrisinta Muccio), Eagle-Tribune All-Stars

Head coach: Peter Comeau

Assistants: Art Iworsley, jumping; Brenda Clark-Warne, distance; Phil Capodilupo, high jump; Scott Price, sprinting; Dick Collins, javelin and shotput; Mark Delisio, discus; Tim Thomas, pole vault

Opener: Hosts Methuen April 2, 3:30 p.m.

VARSITY LACROSSE

Injury can't stop Brown-bound Caro

BY DAVID WILLIS
STAFF WRITER

Katelyn Caro knew something was wrong. "During one of our playoff games my freshman season I collided with another player while on defense," she said. "I still had my hands on my stick, so I landed really hard on my shoulder. But I continued to play, and played the following game, which probably wasn't smart."

After the season, she received the bad news. She had a partial dislocation of her right shoulder, along with bone chips in the shoulder. The injury required surgery, and she missed her sophomore year of soccer, basketball and lacrosse.

"Missing an entire year would derail a lot of kids," Andover lacrosse coach John McVeigh said. "It was a serious injury."

But Caro did not give up. She returned to soccer her junior season, then elected to forgo basketball to prepare for lacrosse.

"I did plenty of lifting and running and going to

an indoor lacrosse facility," Caro said. "When I was cleared by doctors I really worked hard to get back into lacrosse shape."

McVeigh then threw her a curveball once the season began, moving her from defense, which

she played as a freshman, to the offensive-minded attack.

"I was a little caught off guard because it was

Please see **CARO**, Page 17

GIRLS LACROSSE

2007 record: 21-2, lost Division 1 North semifinals

Returning starters (8): Ilana Cohen, Sr., midfield; Kelly Driscoll, Sr., midfield; Jordy Shoemaker, Sr., midfielder; Katelyn Caro, Sr., attack; Jess Forster, Sr., attack; Abby Cook, Jr., goalie; Catherine Gross, Jr., midfielder; Heather Sullivan, Jr., attack

Returning lettermen: Jenn Quinlan, Sr., attack; Erica Leber, Sr., defense; Katie Shields, Jr., midfield; Emily Blech, Jr., defense; Jackie Pelletier, Soph., defense

Newcomers: Shannon Cooney, Jr., defense; Kelly Fox, Jr., attack; Jules Konjoian, Jr., goalie; Katie Nadelson, Jr., defense/goalie; Emily Selwyn, Jr., defense; Alex Alois, Soph., defense; Marissa Cataldo, Soph., defense; Natalie Gibson, Soph., midfield; Rosie Forster, Soph., attack

Maddie Dillman, Frosh, defense; Emily Shields, Frosh., midfield; Natalie Gomez-Martinez, Frosh., attack; Jenn Caro, Frosh., defense; Meghan Morris, Frosh., attack; Jess Salley, Frosh., attack

Candidates in all grades: 94

Captains: Ilana Cohen, Kelly Driscoll, Jordy Shoemaker

Returning leaders: Katelyn Caro 34-24-58;

Jess Forster 26-23-49; Catherine Gross 32-16-48

Returning honorees: Kelly Driscoll, MVC All-Star;

Catherine Gross, MVC All-Star

Head Coach: John McVeigh (4th year, 58-7)

Assistants: Meghan Matson; Beth Arnold, JV;

Sheila Salois, Frosh.

Opener: at Tewksbury, April 2, after deadline

Katelyn Caro looks to make a move with the ball. After overcoming a shoulder injury, Caro stood out for the Golden Warriors last year and enters this season as their top scorer.



Courtesy photo

Hanson a rock for boys lacrosse

BY DAVID WILLIS
STAFF WRITER

Andover lacrosse standout Peter Hanson did his best to stay modest.

"I do whatever I can to score depending on the situation," said the senior midfielder. "But we feel comfortable with anyone on the field taking the shot."

Coach Wayne Puglisi, however, was quick to shower the senior with praise.

"He's got a great shot and great vision," Puglisi said. "When he has the ball on his stick he does a great job of attacking the defender. He does it all on offense, and he's a very good defender."

Hanson was not new to lacrosse when he entered high school. Long before it was competing with baseball in area high schools and was just gaining popularity in Andover, Hanson followed his brother into the sport in the fourth grade.

After spending his freshman season on the subvarsity, Hanson emerged as a key reserve on the varsity team as a sophomore, scoring 11 goals and adding six assists.

But it was last season that Hanson made a name for himself. He was second on the team in goals (34) and assists (21), trailing only All-Scholastic Brendan Hughes. For his efforts he earned Eagle-Tribune and Merrimack Valley Conference All-Star honors.

"He doesn't do anything fancy," Puglisi said. "He plays within himself and the team boundaries. He's a strong kid and very aggressive."

The coach also noted where he groomed his aggressiveness, on the football field.

Hanson stood out as a slot receiver in Andover's spread offense this season. He caught a team-high 35 passes for 438 yards, good for

Please see **HANSON**, Page 17



ROGER DARRIGRAND/Staff photo

Andover's Peter Hanson, left, prepares to fire a shot on goal during Andover's season-opening 8-3 win over Newton South. After a stellar football season, Hanson is expected to be a key member of the lacrosse team.

BOYS LACROSSE

2007 record: 16-5, lost Division 1 East semifinals

Returning starters (6): Nick Reeder, Sr., goalie; Peter Hanson, Sr., midfield; Brendan Hughes, Sr., midfield; Matt Rayner, Sr., defense; Joe Lamagna, Jr., attack; Tripp Stevens, Sr., defense

Returning lettermen: Sam Cook, Sr., midfield; Gavin Lynch, Sr., midfield; Jon Booth, Sr., midfield; Gavin McIver, Jr., midfield; Kevin Drew, Sr., defense; Andrew Federico, Sr., defense; Eric Simpson, Sr., defense; Justin Malins, Sr., attack; C.J. Shea, Sr., attack; Matt Eriksen, Jr., attack

Newcomers: Mike Pierce, Sr., midfield; Zach Kutchin, Sr., defense; John Fiorentino, Soph., attack; Matt Murray, Jr., defense; Tom McQuillan, Jr., midfield; Josh Torres, Jr., midfield; Nick Binder, Jr., defense; Matt Newton, Jr., midfield; Jake Mattison, Jr., midfield; Christian Benedix, Jr., attack; Vinnie Christiano, Jr., defense; Jake Gostanian, Jr., goalie; Matt Newman, Jr., goalie; Andrew Carroll, Jr., midfield

Candidates in all grades: 105

Captains: Kevin Drew, Peter Hanson, Brendan Hughes, Matt Rayner

Returning leaders: Brendan Hughes 53-33-86; Peter Hanson

34-21-55; Justin Malins 30-7-37; Nick Reeder, 115 saves

Returning honorees: Brendan Hughes, All-Scholastic,

Eagle-Tribune All-Star; Peter Hanson, Eagle-Tribune All-Star;

Matt Rayner, Eagle-Tribune All-Star

Head coach: Wayne Puglisi (9th year, 96-52)

Assistants: Leo Lafond, Matt James, Bobby Grant, JV;

Doug Chernovetz, Frosh.

Opener: 8-3 win over Newton South

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High: 54°	Low: 35°	High: 49° Low: 47°	High: 53° Low: 35°	High: 59° Low: 35°	High: 57° Low: 37°	High: 49° Low: 32°	High: 54° Low: 36°

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TOWN TALK



KRISTINA TROTT/Courtesy photo

This tom turkey struts his stuff on Frye Circle earlier this week. He is part of a group that is very tame.

Spring has sprung ... or is it Thanksgiving?

Although robins usually herald the beginning of spring, Morton Street resident **Kristina Trott** found another bird in town with spring fever. Trott spotted wild turkeys showing off their plumage on Frye Circle.

The turkeys are a fixture there, said Trott, and she often passes them when she takes the bus to Shawshen, where she works. In spring, the male turkeys, called toms, puff up in attempt to impress the ladies.

"I think they're spectacularly beautiful ... The people are impressed, I don't think the other birds are. In one of the photos, one of the hens is sleeping (as a tom walks by)," Trott said. "When you see them walking around during the rest of the year, they're just drab, brown birds. Not very impressive."

Trott snapped the photos on Frye Circle the morning of March

31, with a telephoto lens.

The group of turkeys are quite tame, and aren't bothered by residents who come close while walking their dogs. No one feeds them intentionally, Trott said, but several residents have bird feeders in their yards, and the turkeys have formed a taste for birdseed.

"When I first started following them around, they would gobble at me because they didn't know me," said Trott, but now the turkeys don't mind an occasional photoshoot.

— *Bethany Bray*

Serving up organ music

There could be a lot more brown bags on the Phillips Academy campus this month.

Starting April 9 at lunchtime, the private school's music department will launch its series "ORGANize Your Lunch!" — and brown bags are welcome. Four free half-hour organ concerts are planned for the month of April as music teacher and organist Patrick Kabanda is reaching out to turn on more people to the organ.

Julliard-trained, Kabanda took a tip from Wall Street in New York City where lunchtime organ concerts were popular.

"Wall Street is chaotic, stressful, busy, and these people would



Courtesy photo

Patrick Kabanda, a Phillips Academy music teacher and organist, is "organizing" lunchtime concerts.

come to an organ concert with their lunches and just enjoy for a while," said Kabanda, who was fell for the instrument as a youngster in Uganda when his mother brought him to church.

Kabanda has also served up his organ-with-lunch theme at Harvard University and Trinity Church in Boston's Copley Square. England and Australia business workers enjoy the organ concerts with their brown bag lunches, he said.

"The organ is a landmark in-

strument in the U.S. and I want to help make it more popular," Kabanda said, adding with a laugh, "like a rock concert."

Kabanda is hoping PA students and local residents will check out the shows held in Cochran Chapel on Cochran Avenue, just off Route 28. Phillips Academy's majestic organ, built in 1981, sits at the front of the chapel, where Kabanda talked about its incredible range from "quiet hissing to intense and thunderous."

"Mixing its sounds is what captivated me," he said, noting proudly that Johann Sebastian Bach was an organist. "It is a very important instrument to anyone studying music."

He said PA is one of the few high schools in the country to have its own organ and this music series offers a great way for people to check it out.

— *Judy Wakefield*

Another sign of spring

The Andover/North Andover YMCA is selling pink, white, yellow, orange, red and purple varieties of tulips for its annual Reach Out for Youth Campaign. The effort raises money for scholarships to subsidize youth and family programs, allowing the YMCA to continue its tradition of never turning anyone away due to in-

ability to pay.

Tulips are \$10 for a bunch and do not have to be preordered. The Reach Out for Youth campaign runs through May.

The YMCA typically sells \$1,000 worth of tulips through the campaign, said Elizabeth Covino, director of marketing and public relations for the YMCA.

As part of the campaign, the YMCA will also does an annual phone-a-thon, which raises around \$60,000. Volunteers are calling YMCA members and friends to ask for donations this week. For more information con-

tact the YMCA at 978-685-3541; to purchase tulips, stop by 165 Haverhill St., Andover.

— *Bethany Bray*

Andover youth spends a year with frog and toad

Andover resident **Katie LeMark** is one of 18 youth performers in "A Year with Frog and Toad," at North Shore Music Theater. The musical show will be put on by NSMT's youth performance academy next weekend.

LeMark joins a cast of 18 youth performers from 15 Boston-area communities. The show will be performed on the round main stage at NSMT in Beverly.

"A Year with Frog and Toad" is based on the children's books by Arnold Lobel. Tried and true friends Frog and Toad navigate through an adventure-filled year and are joined by some colorful companions along the way as they ponder being alone, bathing suits and spoiling Christmas.

"A Year with Frog and Toad" will be performed at NSMT on Saturday, April 12, at 10 a.m. and 1 p.m. Tickets for both shows are \$15 and \$10 and can be purchased by calling the NSMT box office at 978-232-7200, by visiting the Web site at www.nsmt.org or in person at 62 Dunham Road (Route 128, Exit 19), Beverly.



Courtesy photo

YMCA teen leader Katie LaBatte and membership manager Ody Rosano, both of Andover, sell tulips during the youth campaign.

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